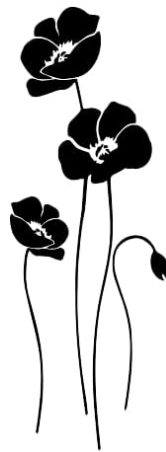


# *Faces of the Fallen*

Stories of Lives Lost

Biographies of the men who served  
from the villages of Bryn,  
Pontrhydyfen and Tonmawr.





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## *Background to the Project*

In January 2023, the Burton Bont Festival Group formed to celebrate the upcoming centenary anniversaries of Pontrhydyfen. Our first project, supported by a community microgrant from Pen Y Cymoedd Windfarm saw us collect over 500 old photos that capture the landscape, lives and heritage of the village. During this project, residents brought along photographs of men, often in uniform who served their country. This began conversations about the war memorial and stories of the people who were lost to us as a community.

In 2025, we successfully applied for a grant to the National Lottery Heritage Fund through NPTC to restore the war memorial and to put together this exhibition. A second grant from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, also through NPTC has allowed us to buy the exhibition boards that we are using today.

Below, we have attempted to trace the lives of 55 men from the three villages who served in WW1 & WW2 so that the stories of these men are not lost to the communities that they once lived in. You will also find information about the civilian casualties that were lost in Pontrhydyfen in 1941. Thirdly, you will see some photos & information about the men and women who served and returned home. We have tried, to the best of our ability, to produce information that was comprehensive and accurate. If there are errors in this exhibition, they are ours alone. If you have any feedback, or information that you wish to add, please do so in the comments book provided. DIOLCH / THANK YOU

The Burton Bont Festival Committee would like to thank:

1. The residents, families and relatives from Bryn, Tonmawr and Pontrhydyfen, who have entrusted us with copies of photos and their family stories of the men who served.
2. Jason Jarvis for his tremendous support and knowledge.
3. Eleri Jones who has allowed us to make a copy of the original 1924 Order of Service.
4. Pontrhydyfen Community Centre.
5. Jeff Wilkins and the Blue Scar Committee for their contribution to the buffet.
6. Sara Maggs & Cimla Funeral Home for their help, support and for funding the Order of Service.
7. Wilson's Memorials Cardiff, for their suggestions, help and support.
8. Anthony Court, Catrin Thomas and Bethan Mair for their work in providing Welsh translations.
9. Rob Clift and Steve Roper who have supported us with transporting the memorial.
10. Royal Welsh Fusiliers Museum, Caernarfon who kindly gave permission for us to use photographs from their collection.
11. Pen Y Cymoedd Community Fund, who supported our initial photo collection project
12. A grant from The National Lottery Heritage Fund through Neath Port Talbot Council (NPTC) which funded the restoration of the War Memorial itself and this exhibition
13. A grant from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund through NPTC which funded the exhibition boards
14. Sarahjayne Clements, NPTC Heritage Officer
15. Members of the public who responded to our call outs for information on social media, their clues were invaluable

This project has involved us using records and online resources. We aren't historians or social commentators, we are a small community group made up of a committee of six women. But we would like to acknowledge the following:

- Local rolls of Honour,

- Imperial War Museum,
- Census records,
- The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC),
- War Pension Ledgers,
- Attestation Papers,
- The National Archives at Kew,
- West Glamorgan Archives,
- Ancestry UK,
- Election Voting Rolls,
- Individual Regimental records,
- Royal Welsh Fusilier regimental records and the RWF Museum Caernarvon
- The National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth, digital newspapers
- National Army Museum
- National Museum of The Royal Navy
- Maritime Museum
- RAF Museum
- Peoples Collection Wales
- The London Gazette ([thegazette.co.uk](http://thegazette.co.uk))
- Newspapers.com

## *Cefndir y Prosiect*

Ym mis Ionawr 2023, ffurfiwyd Grŵp Gŵyl Burton Bont i ddathlu canmlwyddiant arfaethedig Ponrhydyfen. Yn ein prosiect cyntaf, a gefnogwyd gan ficrogrant cymunedol gan Fferm Wynt Pen y Cymoedd, casglwyd dros 500 o hen luniau sy'n dal tirwedd, bywydau a threftadaeth y pentref. Yn ystod y prosiect hwn, daeth trigolion â lluniau o ddynion, yn aml mewn lifrai, a wasanaethodd eu gwlad. Dechreuodd hyn sgysiau am y gofeb ryfel a straeon y bobl a gollwyd gennym ni fel cymuned.

Yn 2025, gwnaethom gais llwyddiannus am grant i Gronfa Dreftadaeth y Loteri Genedlaethol trwy NPTC i adfer y gofeb ryfel ac i roi'r arddangosfa hon at ei gilydd. Mae ail grant gan Gronfa Ffyniant Cyffredin y DU, hefyd trwy NPTC, wedi ein galluogi i brynu'r byrddau arddangos yr ydym yn eu defnyddio heddiw.

Isod, rydym wedi ceisio olrhain bywydau 62 o ddynion o'r tri phentref a wnaeth yr aberth fwyaf yn y Rhyfel Byd Cyntaf a'r Ail Ryfel Byd, fel nad yw straeon y dynion hyn yn mynd ar goll i'r cymunedau yr oeddent yn byw ynddynt ar un adeg. Fe welwch hefyd wybodaeth am y sifiliaid a gollwyd ym Mhonrhydyfen ym 1941. Yn drydydd, fe welwch rai lluniau a gwybodaeth am y dynion a'r menywod a wasanaethodd ac a ddychwelodd adref. Rydym wedi ceisio, hyd eithaf ein gallu, i gynhyrchu gwybodaeth gynhwysfawr a chywir. Os oes gwallau yn yr arddangosfa hon, ein rhai ni yn unig ydynt. Os oes gennych unrhyw adborth, neu wybodaeth yr hoffech ei hychwanegu, gwnewch hynny yn y llyfr sylwadau a ddarperir. DIOLCH / THANK YOU

Hoffai Pwyllgor Gŵyl Burton Bont ddiolch i:

1. Y trigolion, teuluoedd a pherthnasau sydd wedi ymddiried copïau o luniau a'u straeon teuluol am y dynion a wasanaethodd i ni
2. Jason Jarvis am ei gefnogaeth a'i wybodaeth aruthrol.
3. Eleri Jones sydd wedi caniatáu inni wneud copi o Orchymyn Gwasanaeth gwreiddiol 1924.
4. Canolfan Gymunedol Pontrhydyfen
5. Cofebau Wilson Caerdydd, am eu hawgrymiadau, cymorth a chefnogaeth
6. Anthony Court, Catrin Thomas a Bethan Mair am eu gwaith yn darparu cyfieithiadau Cymraeg
7. Rob a Steve Roper sydd wedi ein cefnogi gyda chludo'r gofeb.
8. Amgueddfa'r Ffiwsilwyr Brenhinol Cymreig, Caernarfon a roddodd ganiatâd caredig i ni ddefnyddio ffotograffau o'u casgliad
9. Cronfa Gymunedol Pen y Cymoedd, a gefnogodd ein prosiect casglu lluniau cychwynnol
10. Grant gan Gronfa Dreftadaeth y Loteri Genedlaethol trwy Gyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot (NPTC) a ariannodd adfer y Gofeb Rhyfel ei hun a'r arddangosfa hon
11. Grant gan Gronfa Ffyniant Cyffredin y DU trwy NPTC a ariannodd y byrddau arddangos
12. Sarahjayne Clements, Swyddog Treftadaeth NPTC
13. Aelodau'r cyhoedd a ymatebodd i'n galwadau am wybodaeth ar y cyfryngau cymdeithasol; roedd eu cliwiau'n amhrisiadwy

Mae'r prosiect hwn wedi ein gweld ni'n defnyddio cofnodion ac adnoddau ar-lein. Nid haneswyr na sylwebyddion cymdeithasol mohonom ni, grŵp cymunedol bach ydym ni sy'n cynnwys pwyllgor o chwe menyw. Ond hoffem gydnabod y canlynol:

- Rholiau Anrhydedd lleol,
- Amgueddfa Rhyfel yr Ymerodraeth,
- Cofnodion y cyfrifiad,
- Comisiwn Beddau Rhyfel y Gymanwlad (CWGC),
- Cyfriflyfrau Pensiwn Rhyfel,
- Papurau Ardystio,
- Yr Archifau Cenedlaethol yn Kew,
- Archifau Gorllewin Morganwg,
- Ancestry UK,
- Rholiau Pleidleisio Etholiadau,
- Cofnodion Catrodau Unigol,
- Cofnodion catrodol Ffiwsilwyr Brenhinol Cymru ac Amgueddfa'r RWF Caernarfon
- Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru, Aberystwyth, papurau newydd digidol
- Amgueddfa Genedlaethol y Fyddin
- Amgueddfa Genedlaethol y Llynges Frenhinol
- Yr Amgueddfa Forwrol
- Amgueddfa'r RAF
- Casgliad y Werin Cymru
- The London Gazette ([thegazette.co.uk](http://thegazette.co.uk))

- Newspapers.com

## *Pontrhydyfen's Oak War Memorial - The Life Stories of the Men from Bryn, Pontrhydyfen and Tonmawr*

The War Memorial in Pontrhydyfen was formally dedicated and unveiled on Thursday, June 12th, 1924 at 3:30 pm, in commemoration of the 34 men from Pontrhydyfen, Tonmawr, and Bryn who lost their lives during the Great War (1914–1918). Constructed from oak, the memorial was originally displayed at St John's Church, Oakwood, which served as the mother church for the surrounding area.

After World War II, a second panel was added to the memorial. Made of ash, only the names of the seven men from Pontrhydyfen were added. The reason for this may lay with the fact that, memorials in the other villages had been planned and unveiled.

After the closure of St John's Church, the memorial was stored in the village school which has also since closed. It appears to have left the village at some point and has been returned in recent years to be displayed in Pontrhydyfen Community Centre.

War memorials can now be found in each village. Four are found in Pontrhydyfen alone, including a metal plaque displayed in the Blue Scar Club (originally displayed in the Memorial Hall). This commemorates men from Pontrhydyfen from both World Wars as well as the four civilian casualties who died following the bombing of a house in Morgans Terrace in the early hours of May 11th, 1941.

A brass plaque can be found in Macpelah Chapel. This Welsh language memorial records the parishioners that once worshipped in Jerusalem Calvinistic Methodist Chapel, this was then displayed in Macpelah, when it became the only remaining place of worship in the village. This plaque records names of parishioner armed forces from both conflicts as well as the civilian casualties who are mentioned above. Finally, a set of memorial stones were displayed on the original Memorial Hall which was demolished in the 1970's. The stones were saved and are now displayed on land at the side of the Community Centre.

The village of Bryn has a cenotaph and more recently, a memorial in slate was unveiled outside St Teilo's Church in Tonmawr. This commemorates all those men from Tonmawr who served in the armed services during both conflicts.

Initially, the Burton Bont Festival committee gathered information about the men commemorated on the memorial. But, after discussion the Committee felt that it was more appropriate that the biographies of men from all three villages should be collected and added to this exhibition.

Finally, during this project we have been made aware that there are families who have moved to the area who also lost sons, brothers, fathers or uncles. We have, with their permission added them to this exhibition. Some have war graves in the village of Pontrhydyfen itself, some have been buried with family members, others have been memorialised on family graves. We hope that their memory will be captured and not lost. If you know of anyone that we have failed to record, please let us know, or leave a message in the comments book provided.

We are planning that information from the exhibition is copied, bound and given to each village so that it can be held in a community space. We are also planning to deposit this information in West Glamorgan Archives.

This will be in some ways an attempt to ensure that the lives of the men are not lost to the communities that they once lived in and show the generations that come next that their stories live on.

# *Cofeb Ryfel Dderw Pontrhydyfen - Hanesion Bywyd y Dynion o Fryn, Pontrhydyfen a Thonmawr*

Cafodd y Gofeb Ryfel ym Mhontrhydyfen ei chysegru a'i dadorchuddio'n ffurfiol ddydd Iau, Mehefin 12fed, 1924 am 3:30 pm, er cof am y 34 o ddynion o Bontrhydyfen, Tonmawr, a Bryn a gollodd eu bywydau yn ystod y Rhyfel Mawr (1914–1918). Wedi'i hadeiladu o dderw, cafodd y gofeb ei harddangos yn wreiddiol yn Eglwys Sant Ioan, Oakwood, a wasanaethodd fel mam-eglwys yr ardal gyfagos.

Ar ôl yr Ail Ryfel Byd, ychwanegwyd ail banel at y gofeb. Wedi'i gwneud o ynn, dim ond enwau'r saith dyn o Bontrhydyfen a ychwanegwyd. Efallai mai'r rheswm am hyn yw'r ffaith bod cofebau yn y pentrefi eraill wedi'u cynllunio a'u dadorchuddio.

Ar ôl cau Eglwys Sant Ioan, cafodd y gofeb ei storio yn ysgol y pentref sydd hefyd wedi cau ers hynny. Ymddengys iddo adael y pentref rywbryd ac iddo gael ei ddychwelyd yn ystod y blynyddoedd diwethaf i'w arddangos yng Nghanolfan Gymunedol Pontrhydyfen.

Gellir dod o hyd i gofebau rhyfel ym mhob pentref bellach. Mae pedwar i'w cael ym Mhontrhydyfen yn unig, gan gynnwys plac metel a ddangosir yng Nghlwb y Scar Glas (a ddangoswyd yn wreiddiol yn y Neuadd Goffa). Mae hwn yn coffáu dynion o Bontrhydyfen o'r ddau Ryfel Byd yn ogystal â'r pedwar anaf sifil a fu farw yn dilyn bomio tŷ ym Morgans Terrace yn oriau mân Mai 11eg, 1941.

Gellir dod o hyd i blac pres yng Nghapel Macpelah. Mae'r gofeb Gymraeg hon yn cofnodi'r plwyfolion a arferai addoli yng Nghapel Methodistiaid Calfinaidd Jerwsalem, yna cafodd hwn ei arddangos ym Macpelah, pan ddaeth yn unig le addoli sy'n weddill yn y pentref. Mae'r plac hwn yn cofnodi enwau lluoedd arfog plwyfolion o'r ddau wrthdaro yn ogystal â'r anafiadau sifil a grybwyllir uchod. Yn olaf, arddangoswyd set o gerrig coffa ar y Neuadd Goffa wreiddiol a ddymchwelwyd yn y 1970au. Achubwyd y cerrig ac maent bellach yn cael eu harddangos ar dir wrth ochr y Ganolfan Gymunedol.

Mae gan bentref Bryn senotaff ac yn fwy diweddar, datgelwyd cofeb o lechi y tu allan i Eglwys Sant Teilo yn Nhonmawr. Mae hyn yn coffáu'r holl ddynion hynny o Donmawr a wasanaethodd yn y lluoedd arfog yn ystod y ddau wrthdaro.

I ddechrau, casglodd pwyllgor Gŵyl Burton Bont wybodaeth am y dynion a goffáwyd ar y gofeb. Ond, ar ôl trafodaeth, teimlai'r Pwyllgor ei bod yn fwy priodol casglu bywgraffiadau dynion o'r tri phentref a'u hychwanegu at yr arddangosfa hon.

Yn olaf, yn ystod y prosiect hwn, rydym wedi cael gwybod bod teuluoedd sydd wedi symud i'r ardal a gollodd feibion, brodyr, tadau neu ewythrod hefyd. Rydym, gyda'u caniatâd, wedi'u hychwanegu at yr arddangosfa hon. Mae gan rai feddau rhyfel ym mhentref Pontrhydyfen ei hun, mae rhai wedi'u claddu gydag aelodau'r teulu, mae eraill wedi'u coffáu ar feddau teuluol. Gobeithiwn y bydd eu cof yn cael ei ddal ac na fydd yn cael ei golli. Os ydych chi'n adnabod unrhyw un nad ydym wedi'i gofnodi, rhowch wybod i ni, neu gadewch neges yn y llyfr sylwadau a ddarperir.

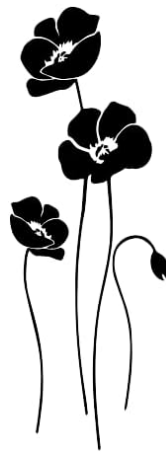
Rydym yn bwriadu copïo, rhwymo a rhoi gwybodaeth o'r arddangosfa i bob pentref fel y gellir ei chadw mewn lle cymunedol. Rydym hefyd yn bwriadu adneuo'r wybodaeth hon yn Archifau Gorllewin Morgannwg.

Bydd hyn mewn rhai ffyrdd yn ymgais i sicrhau nad yw bywydau'r dynion yn cael eu colli i'r cymunedau yr oeddent yn byw ynddynt ar un adeg a dangos i'r cenedlaethau nesaf fod eu straeon yn parhau i fyw.

# *Faces of the Fallen*

Stories of Lives Lost

Biographies of the men who  
served in World War I  
1914-1918



## Merchant Seaman Hassan Ali (1885–1918)

Hassan Ali (or Alli) was born in Aden, Yemen, approximately in 1885. Aden is a port city located in the southern part of the Arabian Peninsula, serving as a gateway between the Arabian Sea and the Red Sea. According to his marriage certificate, his father Mohammed was a farmer. Currently, there is no additional information available regarding Hassan's family. The 1911 census records Hassan residing at 52 Ruby Street, Roath, Cardiff, employed as a seaman—presumably working on ships arriving at Cardiff Docks. He was living with Florence Margaret (née Margetson), identified as his wife, along with her niece. The circumstances under which they met remain unclear, as does how Florence came to settle in Cardiff, given her family's background as agricultural labourers in Tivertshall, Norfolk. In 1911, members of the Margetson family were documented in Goytre and in Efail Fach, Pontrhydyfen. Subsequently, the couple married in 1914 at Neath Registry Office, though the marriage certificate lists them at separate addresses in Goytre at the time. Hassan is noted as working as a fireman at the steel works. By this stage, they already had a daughter, Zina, born in Cardiff in 1912. It is believed the family relocated to Curwen Terrace, Pontrhydyfen, where their son Arthur was born in 1915. In the following years, Hassan rejoined the Merchant Navy, likely serving as a ship's fireman and trimmer. The exact circumstances surrounding Hassan's death remain uncertain. By 1921, Florence was recorded as a widow, living with her children in Tonmawr Road and employed as a domestic worker. She remarried during the 1930s and, according to the 1939 register, was residing with her second husband (a retired railway signalman) and her son Arthur at 1 Wern View, Pontrhydyfen. Arthur, now an adult, was employed as a coal hewer and sadly passed away at the age of 28 in 1944. Zina, Hassan and Florence's daughter, later married and moved first to Briton Ferry and subsequently to Albion Road, Port Talbot.

**Note: The following information has been submitted to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission for review:**

On May 9th, 1918, the SS Baron Ailsa, operated by the Kelvin Shipping Co., was transporting coal for the war effort when it was torpedoed and sunk by SMS UB-72 off the Pembrokeshire coast, resulting in the loss of ten lives. A newspaper account of the coroner's inquest details the vessel's rapid sinking in less than a minute and describes survivors being rescued by the USS Fanning (DD-37). The report mentioned that "An Ali Hasan (28), an Arab fireman," was among those rescued from the water but subsequently died shortly after rescue. Although the age differs by five years from Hassan Alli commemorated on the Pontrhydyfen war memorial, the body was interred in Milford Haven in an unmarked grave. This information has been submitted to the Commission to ascertain if this individual was Florence's husband. Regardless of the outcome, a request has been made for a headstone to be placed on the grave in accordance with the commemoration of other World War I servicemen. We await the Commission's decision.

Surname	<b>HASSAN</b>	Certif. or Dis. A.	<b>935304</b>
Christian names	<b>ALLI</b>	RS2 No.	<b>480959</b>
Place of birth	<b>Aden</b>	Year of birth	<b>1892</b>
Mercantile Marine Ribbon issued		to M.M.O.	
British Medal Ribbon issued		to M.M.O.	
Mercantile Marine Medal issued		to M.M.O.	
British Medal issued		to M.M.O.	
<b>21 NOV 1935</b>			
<b>Cardiff</b>			
<b>BW. MM. WM. 2</b>			

Catalogue Reference: BT35141 Image Reference: 58820

Ganwyd Hassan Ali (neu Alli) yn Aden, Yemen, tua 1885. Mae Aden yn ddinas borthladd a leolir yn rhan ddeheuol Penrhyn Arabia, gan wasanaethu fel porth rhwng Môr Arabia a'r Môr Coch. Yn ôl ei dystysgrif priodas, roedd ei dad Mohammed yn ffermwr. Ar hyn o bryd, nid oes unrhyw wybodaeth ychwanegol ar gael ynglŷn â theulu Hassan. Mae cyfrifiad 1911 yn cofnodi bod Hassan yn byw yn 52 Ruby Street, y Rhath, Caerdydd, ac yn cael ei gyflogi fel morwr – yn ôl pob tebyg yn gweithio ar longau a oedd yn cyrraedd Dociau Caerdydd. Roedd yn byw gyda Florence Margaret (née Margetson), a nodwyd fel ei wraig, ynghyd â'i nith hi. Mae'r amgylchiadau o ran sut y bu iddyn nhw gyfarfod yn parhau i fod yn aneglur, yn yr un modd sut y daeth Florence i ymgartrefu yng Nghaerdydd, o ystyried cefndir ei theulu fel llafurwyr amaethyddol yn Tivertshall, Norfolk. Ym 1911, cofnodwyd aelodau o deulu Margetson yn y Goetre ac yn Efail-fach, Pontrhydyfen. Wedi hynny, priododd y cwpl ym 1914 yn Swyddfa Gofrestru Castell-nedd, er bod y dystysgrif briodas yn eu rhestru mewn cyfeiriadau ar wahân yn y Goetre ar y pryd. Nodir bod Hassan yn gweithio fel diffoddwr tân yn y gwaith dur. Erbyn hyn, roedd eisoes ganddynt ferch, Zina, a aned yng Nghaerdydd ym 1912. Credir bod y teulu wedi symud i Curwen Terrace, Pontrhydyfen, lle ganed eu mab Arthur ym 1915. Yn y blynyddoedd canlynol, ailymunodd Hassan â'r Llynges Fasnachol, gan wasanaethu'n ôl pob tebyg fel diffoddwr tân a storiwr llong. Mae'r union amgylchiadau sy'n ymwneud â marwolaeth Hassan yn parhau i fod yn ansicr. Erbyn 1921, cofnodwyd Florence fel gweddw, yn byw gyda'i phlant yn Tonmawr Road ac yn cael ei chyflogi fel gweithiwr domestig. Ailbriododd yn ystod y 1930au ac, yn ôl cofrestr 1939, roedd hi'n byw gyda'i hail ŵr (signalwr rheilffordd wedi ymddeol) a'i mab Arthur yn 1 Wern View, Pontrhydyfen. Roedd Arthur, a oedd bellach yn oedolyn, yn cael ei gyflogi fel cloddiwr glo ac yn anffodus bu farw yn 28 oed ym 1944. Priododd Zina, merch Hassan a Florence, yn ddiweddarach a symudodd yn gyntaf i Lansawel ac wedi hynny i Albion Road, Port Talbot.

**Nodyn: Cyflwynwyd yr wybodaeth ganlynol i Gomisiwn Beddau Rhyfel y Gymanwlad i'w hadolygu:**

**Ar Fai 9fed, 1918, roedd yr SS Baron Ailsa, a weithredwyd gan y Kelvin Shipping Co., yn cludo glo ar gyfer yr ymdrech ryfel pan gafodd ei tharo gan dorpido a'i suddo gan SMS UB-72 oddi ar arfordir Sir Benfro, gan arwain at golli deg o fywydau. Mae adroddiad papur newydd o gwest y crwner yn manylu ar suddo cyflym y llong mewn llai na munud ac yn disgrifio goroeswyr yn cael eu hachub gan yr USS Fanning (DD-37). Soniodd yr adroddiad fod "an Ali Hasan (28), diffoddwr tân Arabaidd," ymhlith y rhai a achubwyd o'r dŵr ond iddo farw yn fuan ar ôl ei achub. Er bod yr oedran bum mlynedd yn wahanol i Hassan Alli a goffeir ar gofeb ryfel Pontrhydyfen, claddwyd y corff yn Aberdaugleddau mewn bedd heb farc. Cyflwynwyd yr wybodaeth hon i'r Comisiwn i ganfod a oedd yr unigolyn hwn yn ŵr i Florence. Waeth beth fo'r canlyniad, gwnaed cais i osod carreg fedd ar y bedd yn unol â choffáu milwyr eraill y Rhyfel Byd Cyntaf. Rydym yn dal i aros am benderfyniad y Comisiwn.**

## *Sgt. W. Berry*

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We think that this gentleman has links to Bryn. On the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) website, there are three Sgt. W Berry's with links directly to South Wales. A single newspaper record on 16th January 1915, links one of these men to the published minutes of a meeting held by Margam District Council which would discuss issues relevant to Bryn and Mynydd Bychan.

A letter written by a Lance-Corporal William Berry, 6536 C. Company, 1st Bn. Somerset Light Infantry, thanks the council for a parcel he received. Written from the trenches, William goes on to say what a difference a change of underclothing has made to him. Our research shows that William came from a mariner's family in Pill, Somerset.

The family moved to Barry, Glamorgan. William is recorded as still living in Barry in 1911, prior to his enlistment. We are unable to confirm if William has any further links to Bryn and if he is the man commemorated on the memorial. But in 1916, William had been promoted to Sergeant. On 21st October his regiment is fighting in Gillemont in the Somme. He is recorded as dying that day.

Over 114 million parcels were sent to troops in WW1, some from families and friends, others distributed by the Red Cross, municipal organisations and even gifts organised by the British Royal family. Their primary aim was to boost morale and contained everyday items such as soap, underwear, non-perishable food.

**\* If you have any information about a Sgt. W. Berry, please leave a note in our comments book.**

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Fe gredir fod gan y person hwn gysylltiadau â Bryn. Ar safle wê y Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) mae tri Rhingyll Berry sydd â chyswllt gyda De Cymru. Mae un adroddiad papur newyddion yn unig o Ionawr 16eg 1915 yn cysylltu un o'r dynion hyn â chofnodion cyfarfod Cyngor Dosbarth Margam a oedd yn trafod materion a oedd yn berthnasol i Fryn a Mynydd Bychan.

Mae llythyr a'i ysgrifenydd gan Lance-Corporal William Berry, 6536 C. Company, Bataliwn 1af y Somerset Light Infantry, yn diolch y Cyngor am barsel a'i dderbynodd: wrth ysgrifennu o'r ffosydd, mae William yn dweud ei fod yn ddiolchgar iawn am yr is-ddillad newydd.

Symudodd y teulu i'r Bari, Morgannwg. Fe recordir William yn dal i fyw yn y Bari ym 1911, cyn iddo ymrestru. Nid yw wedi bod yn bosibl cadarnhau os oes ganddo gysylltiadau eraill â Bryn, nag os mai ef yw'r dyn a'i goffáu ar y gofeb rhyfel, ond ym 1916 roedd William wedi cael ei ddyrchafu i reng Rhingyll. Ar Hydref 21ain roedd ei gatrawd yn ymladd yng Ngillement yn y Somme, a fe gofnodir ei farwolaeth ar y diwrnod hwnnw.

Anfonwyd dros 114 miliwn o barseli i filwyr yn ystod y Rhyfel Byd Cyntaf – rhai gan deuluoedd a ffrindiau, eraill gan y Red Cross, cymdeithasoedd bwrdeisiol a hyd yn oed y Teulu Brenhinol Prydeinig. Amcan y rhain oedd hyrwyddo morâl da, a fe gynnwysant eitemau 'pob dydd' fel sebon, is-ddillad a bwyd nad yw yn pydru'n rhwydd.

**\* Os oes gennych wybodaeth am Rhingyll W. Berry, a wnewch chi adael sylw yn ein llyfr sylwadau, os gwelwch yn dda.**

# *Sgt. Sidney Thomas Chatham (1889–1918)*

**18801, Royal Welch Fusiliers, 14th Btn.**

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Born in Llanelli, Carmarthenshire, Sidney lived with his parents (Stephen and Sarah) and siblings. By 1911, the family were living in 19 Maesteg Road Bryn. Sidney was working as a brick setter. He joined the Royal Welch Fusiliers, disembarked in France on December 2nd, 1915, and was in time promoted to Sergeant.

In August 1918, a series of coordinated allied military attacks began on the Western Front. Known as the 'Hundred Days Offensive,' this time marked the final phase of conflict against a weakening German Army. The victory did not come without cost, with the Allies suffered over one million casualties and the Germans over 1.1 million.

On October 20th, 1918, The Royal Welch Fusiliers documented 42 casualties. Sydney is recorded as being killed in action, aged 29 years at Charlton J. Chedzoy, Flanders, barely 3 weeks before the war ended. He is memorialised on the Vis-en-Artois Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. His mother Sarah is named on his war pension records and as executor of his will. In the 1921 census,

Sarah is widowed, still living in Bryn. Some of his siblings remained in Bryn and his younger brother Edgar went onto name his son after Sidney.

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Ganwyd Sidney yn Llanelli, Sir Gaerfyrddin, ac roedd yn byw gyda'i rieni (Stephen a Sarah) a'i frodyr a'i chwiorydd. Erbyn 1911, roedd y teulu'n byw yn 19 Heol Maesteg, Bryn. Roedd Sidney yn gweithio fel gosodwr brics. Ymunodd â'r Ffiwsilwyr Brenhinol Cymreig, glaniodd yn Ffrainc ar 2 Rhagfyr 1915 ac ymhen amser cafodd ei ddyrchafu'n Rhingyll.

Ym mis Awst 1918, cafwyd cyfres o ymosodiadau milwrol cydlynol gan y cynghreiriaid ar Ffrynt y Gorllewin. Roedd y cyfnod hwn, a alwyd yn 'Ymosodiad Can Diwrnod', yn nodi cam olaf y gwrthdaro yn erbyn Byddin yr Almaen, oedd yn gwanhau. Ni ddaeth y fuddugoliaeth heb bris, gyda'r Cynghreiriaid yn dioddef dros filiwn o golledion, a'r Almaenwyr dros 1.1 miliwn.

Ar Hydref 20fed, 1918, cofnododd y Ffiwsilwyr Brenhinol Cymreig 42 o golledion. Cofnodir bod Sydney wedi'i ladd mewn brwydr, yn 29 oed, yn Charlton J. Chedzoy, Fflandrys, prin 3 wythnos cyn i'r rhyfel ddod i ben. Mae wedi'i goffáu ar Gofeb Vis-en-Artois, Pas de Calais, Ffrainc. Enwir ei fam Sarah ar gofnodion ei bensiwn rhyfel ac fel ysgutor ei ewyllys. Yng nghyfrifiad 1921, mae Sarah yn weddw, yn dal i fyw yn Bryn. Arhosodd rhai o'i frodyr a'i chwiorydd yn Bryn ac aeth ei frawd iau Edgar ymlaen i enwi ei fab ar ôl Sidney.

## *Sap. Bertram Frederick Cree\** (1886–1915)

**13986, Royal Engineers, 17th Field Coy**

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Bertram was born in Ashwick, Dulverton, Somerset and lived at the Police Station with his parents (John Frederick and Emily) and several of his siblings. His father John was also a Police Constable and Bertram was to follow his father into a career with the police.

He married Winifred, a local Somerset girl in April 1913 where it stated that Bertram was already living in Afan Vale, South Wales. He is recorded in several local Welsh newspaper reports at that time, sometimes as a "PC C REES" dealing with striking miners, local incidents in Tonmawr and Pontrhydyfen and the Afan valley.

The Royal Engineers were heavily involved in intense fighting around Ypres which also saw the first large-scale use of gas by the Germans in late April 1915. Bertram is reported as being killed in action in Flanders on April 30th, 1915, aged 30 years. He is memorialised on the Menin Gate. A newspaper reported that Winifred was presented with a portrait of her husband on behalf of the village. She went onto to live in Bristol, remarried and had a son.

**\*Please note that on our memorial, Bertram is recorded as PC CRY.**

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Ganwyd Bertram yn Ashwick, Dulverton, Gwlad yr Haf a bu'n byw yn yr Orsaf Heddlu gyda'i rieni (John Frederick ac Emily) a nifer o'i frodyr a chwiorydd. Roedd ei dad John hefyd yn Gwnstabl Heddlu a byddai Bertram yn dilyn ei dad i yrfa gyda'r heddlu.

Priododd â Winifred, merch leol o Wlad yr Haf, ym mis Ebrill 1913 lle nodwyd bod Bertram eisoes yn byw yn Nyffryn Afan, De Cymru. Fe'i cofnodir mewn sawl adroddiad papur newydd lleol yng Nghymru ar y pryd, weithiau fel "PC C REES", yn delio â glowyr ar streic, digwyddiadau lleol yn Nhon-mawr a Phontrhydyfen a dyffryn Afan.

Cymerodd y Peirianwyr Brenhinol yn ran flaenllaw yn yr ymladd dwys o amgylch Ypres a welodd hefyd y defnydd cyntaf o nwy ar raddfa fawr gan yr Almaenwyr ddiwedd mis Ebrill 1915. Adroddir bod Bertram wedi'i ladd mewn brwydr yn Fflandrys ar Ebrill 30ain, 1915, yn 30 oed. Mae wedi'i goffáu ar Borth Menin. Adroddodd papur newydd fod Winifred wedi derbyn portread o'i gŵr ar ran y pentref. Aeth ymlaen i fyw ym Mryste, ailbriododd a chafodd fab.

**\*Sylwch fod Bertram wedi'i gofnodi ar ein cofeb fel PC CRY.**

## *Gnr. David Roger Curtis (1887–1918)*

### **81074 East Surrey Regiment, 2nd Btn**

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The Curtis family were a large family, living in Efail Fach from the 1850's onwards. His parents, David Snr. (a coal miner, then farmer) and Mary, lived in Efail Fach and at Tonygregas Farm in 1901. David Roger was the only one of his siblings to be born outside of Pontrhydyfen (Onllwyn), although his maternal side of the family came from the Dulais valley. His grandfather (Thomas) was a house thatcher. David was one of three brothers to join up during the First World War (see Llewellyn CURTIS).

David Roger married Mary Jane Davies, whose family lived in Blaenavon Terrace, Tonmawr. The couple went on to have a son Richard Arthur and in 1911 the census showed that they lived at 9 Blaenavon Terrace. The small family shared the house with Mary's married sister, Ester Alice, her husband John FISHER and their small son. John Fisher is also commemorated on the Board. Sadly, the family experienced three losses in total. Two sisters each lost a husband, their sons each lost a father as well as an uncle.

A newspaper records David Roger as passing away of pneumonia on 26th September 1918, in Salonica Greece, aged 33. Presumably, David may have been one of the many casualties of the 1918-19 global influenza epidemic (or Spanish Flu) that went onto claim over 25 million lives. David Roger is buried in Bralo British Cemetery, Greece. In 1921, Mary now widowed, is recorded as living with her son in 14 Blaenavon Tce and working in Tonmawr School as a school caretaker.

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Teulu mawr oedd y teulu Curtis, a oedd yn byw yn Efail Fach o'r 1850au ymlaen. Roedd rhieni David yr hŷn (glöwr a wedyn ffarmwr) a Mary, yn byw yn Efail Fach ac ar Ffarm Tonygregas ym 1901. Bu David Roger yr unig un o blant y teulu i gael ei eni y tu allan i Bontrhydyfen, yn Onllwyn, er i ochr ei fam o'r teulu yn dod o Gwm Dulais. Tôwr â gwelld oedd ei dad-cu, Thomas. Un o dri brawd wnaeth ymuno â'r fyddin yn ystod y Rhyfel Byd Cyntaf oedd David Roger. (Gweler Llewellyn Curtis).

Priododd David Roger Mary Jane Davies, yr oedd ei theulu yn byw yn Nheras Blaenavon, Tonmawr. Cafodd y cwpl fab, Richard Arthur, a mae Cyfrifiad (Census) 1911 yn eu dangos yn byw yn 9, Teras Blaenavon. Rhannodd y teulu bach gyda chwaer briod Mary, Ester Alice a'i gŵr, John Fisher, a'u mab bach. Mae John Fisher hefyd yn cael ei goffáu ar y Bwrdd. Yn drist iawn, mae'r teulu wedi dioddef cyfanswm o dri cholled: mae'r ddwy chwaer wedi colli eu gwŷr, a mae eu meibion wedi colli tad yn ogystal ag ewythr.

Mae papur newyddion yn cofnodi marwolaeth David Roger o lid yr ysgyfaint (pneumonia) ar Fedi 26ain, 1918 yn Salonica yng Ngroeg. Mae'n debygol ei fod yn un o'r nifer mawr o ddiodefwyr a fu farw yn ystod yr epidemig ffliw byd-eang o 1918-1919 (y 'Spanish Flu'), sydd wedi llad dros 25 miliwn. Fe gladdwyd David Roger ym Mynwent Brydeinig Mialo, Groeg. Ym 1921, fe gofnodir Mary, bellach yn weddw, yn byw gyda'i fab yn 14, Teras Blaenavon, ac yn gweithio fel gofalwraig yn Ysgol Tonmawr.

## *Rifleman. Llewellyn Curtis (1893–1915)*

**Y/1724 Kings Royal Rifles, Corps, 3rd Btn**

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Born in Pontrhydyfen, Llewellyn was a younger brother of David Roger CURTIS. Llewellyn's parents, David (a coal miner, then farmer) and Mary had a large family & lived in Efail fach and at Tonygregas Farm by 1901. In 1911, Llewellyn is living with his older brother Jenkin and his large family in Crynant, Neath.

His attestation papers and war record have survived, and several facts emerge. He joined the army in September 1914; he is described as being 5' 6", weighing 9 stone, with a fair complexion, blue eyes and light brown hair. He is fined 5 days' pay when he was absent without a pass in January 1915.

He is recorded as dying from injuries sustained on April 9th, 1915, aged 22 in Ypres / Flanders. This was day was significant as this was the day that the German army launched a major offensive introducing poison gas as a weapon and the offensive is known as the Second Battle of Ypres. Llewellyn is memorialised on the Menin Gate.

His younger brother Thomas was the only brother of the three men to survive the first world war. In 1921, Thomas and his new wife, Gladys, are recorded as their living in Brynderi, Efail Fach with his parents David & Mary.

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Cafodd Llewellyn ei eni ym Mhontrhydyfen, yn frawd i David Roger Curtis. Cafodd ei rieni, David (glöwr a wedyn ffarmwr) a Mary deulu mawr, a wedi byw yn Efail Fach ac ar Ffarm Tonygregas erbyn 1901. Ym 1911, roedd Llewellyn yn byw gyda'i frawd hŷn, Jenkin, a'i deulu mawr yng Nghrynant, Castell Nedd.

Mae ei bapurau ardystiad a'i record milwrol yn bod o hyd, ac yn cynnig amrywiaeth o ffeithiau amdano. Ymunodd â'r fyddin ym Medi, 1914 a fe ei ddisgrifir fel 5'6", yn pwysu 9 stôn, gyda phryd golau, llygaid glas a gwallt brown-golau. Yn Ionawr, 1915, cafodd ddirwy o gyflog pum-diwrnod am fod yn absennol heb ganiatâd.

Fe gofnodir ei farwolaeth a achoswyd gan anafiadau a gafwyd ar Ebrill 9fed, 1915, yn 22 blwydd oed, yn Ypres, Flanders. Bu'r diwrnod hwn yn arwyddocaol fel y tro cyntaf i'r fyddin Almaeneg lansio ymosodiad mawr gan ddefnyddio nwy gwenwynol. Fe enwir yr ymosodiad yn Ail Frwydr Ypres.

Bu ei frawd iau, Thomas, yr unig frawd o'r tri dyn i oroesi'r Rhyfel Byd Cynraf. Ym 1921, fe gofnodir Thomas a'i wraig newydd, Gladys' yn byw ym Mrynderi, Efail Fach, gyda'i rieni, David a Mary.

## *Sapper Eli Davies (1881–1916)*

**156072, Royal Engineers, Tunnelling Cpy.**

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Eli was born in Penrhiwfer, Tonyrefail, son of Daniel (coal miner) and Elizabeth. The family had several children and lived in Penrhiwfer for all of Eli's childhood. He married his wife Elizabeth Ann (from Llantrisant) in around 1904 and by 1911, the couple were living in 39 Mill St, Cwmfelin, Nr. Maesteg. He was working as a coal miner. Their census record showed that they had already lost a child by this time. Eli's attestation papers survive, but they raise a few questions about how the couple supposedly married in Wigan. They show that he joined the army in early September 1914, barely 6 weeks after war broke out. He is described as weighing 11st 3lbs, was 5' 5", had brown hair, blue eyes and a fresh complexion.

By January 1916, Eli had transferred into the Royal Engineers Tunnelling companies which had been formed to dig attacking tunnels under enemy lines. The British Army were quick to recruit skilled men, however, there was a high mortality rate amongst this group of men who often worked by candlelight in cold cramped conditions. He is reported as dying from his wounds on 21st May 1916, aged 35 years old. He is buried at Noeux-Les-Mines Communal Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France. His military papers state that Elizabeth Ann was living at 13 Station Tce, Bryn and when she had received her late husband's war medals. The 1921, census showed that she was still living at this address, and their son Daniel was working aged 16 as a colliery doorboy.

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Ganwyd Eli ym Mhen-rhiw-fer, Tonyrefail, yn fab i Daniel (glöwr) ac Elizabeth. Roedd gan y teulu nifer o blant ac roeddent yn byw ym Mhen-rhiw-fer drwy gydol plentyndod Eli. Priododd â'i wraig Elizabeth Ann (o Lantrisant) tua 1904 ac erbyn 1911, roedd y cwpl yn byw yn 39 Mill St, Cwmfelin, ger Maesteg. Roedd yn gweithio fel glöwr. Dengys eu cofnod cyfrifiad eu bod eisoes wedi colli plentyn erbyn hyn. Mae papurau ardystio Eli wedi goroesi, ond maent yn codi ychydig o gwestiynau ynghylch sut yr ymddengys i'r cwpl briodi yn Wigan. Maent yn dangos iddo ymuno â'r fyddin ddechrau mis Medi 1914, brin 6 wythnos wedi i'r rhyfel ddechrau. Disgrifir ef fel un oedd yn pwyso 11 stôn a 3 pwys, yn 5' 5", gyda gwallt brown, llygaid glas a chroen glân.

Erbyn mis Ionawr 1916, roedd Eli wedi trosglwyddo i gwmnïau Twnelu'r Peirianwyr Brenhinol a oedd wedi'u ffurfio i gloddio twneli ymosodol o dan linellau'r gelyn. Roedd Byddin Prydain yn gyflym i recriwtio dynion medrus, fodd bynnag, roedd cyfradd marwolaethau uchel ymhlith y grŵp hwn o ddynion a oedd yn aml yn gweithio dan olau kannwyll mewn amodau oer a chyfyng. Adroddir ei fod wedi marw o'i glwyfau ar 21 Mai 1916, yn 35 oed. Mae wedi'i gladdu ym Mynwent Gymunedol Noeux-Les-Mines, Pas de Calais, Ffrainc. Mae ei bapurau milwrol yn nodi bod Elizabeth Ann yn byw yn 13 Station Tce, Bryn, a phryd y derbyniodd fedalau rhyfel ei diweddar ŵr. Dengys cyfrifiad 1921 ei bod hi'n dal i fyw yn y cyfeiriad hwn, a bod eu mab Daniel yn gweithio, yn 16 oed, fel gwas drws mewn pwll glo.

## *Corp. James Davies (1886–1918)*

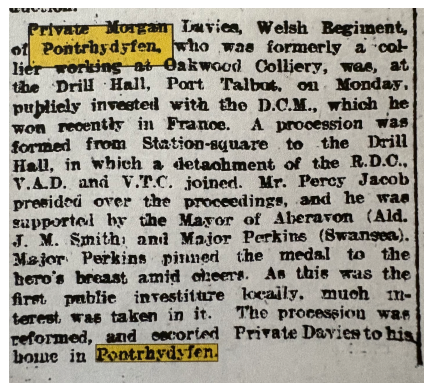
**MM Deal. /3477 (S), Royal Marines, RM Medical Unit, RN Div**

Born in Cwmafan, son of Sarah and Samuel (Labourer), James and his siblings soon moved to Pontrhydyfen where more children were born in the following years. The family first lived in Herbert House, Pontrhydyfen and then in 4 Pontycymmer, near to the viaduct. In 1911, James is working as a Coal Miner Hewer, supporting his widowed mother and his two sisters who were working as tin workers.

He married Elizabeth Rees in Felinfoel, Llanelli, but we don't know how the couple met. He enlisted in 1915, joining the Royal Marines medical unit. He was awarded the Military Medal in Ancre and it is reported in the London Gazette in February 1917 that "[he] displayed great courage and energy in removing patients from a position which was heavily shelled to one of great safety." (please see copy). This record describes precisely when James passed on 20th November 1920, aged 32 years, barely 11 days after the war had ended. It is possible that James was one of the many victims of influenza, or the 1918 'Spanish' Flu Pandemic which went on to claim millions of lives. He is buried in Etaples Military Cemetery, France. Several newspaper reports following his death enabled us to trace James and his wife Elizabeth, who in 1921 went to live in 2 Glyncelyn, Felinfoel. She died at the age of 82 and is buried with her parents in Felinfoel. Several of James' siblings continued to live in the village, including Queen Street Pontrhydyfen.

Ganwyd James yng Nghwmafan, yn fab i Sarah a Samuel (Llafurwr), symudodd James a'i frodyr a chwiorydd yn fuan i Bontrhydyfen lle ganed mwy o blant yn y blynyddoedd canlynol. Bu'r teulu'n byw yn Nhŷ Herbert, Pontrhydyfen yn gyntaf ac yna yn 4 Pontycymer, ger y draphont. Ym 1911, roedd James yn gweithio fel Glöwr, gan gynnal ei fam weddw a'i ddwy chwaer a oedd yn gweithio fel gweithwyr tun.

Priododd ag Elizabeth Rees yn Felinfoel, Llanelli, ond nid ydym yn gwybod sut y cyfarfu'r cwpl. Ymunodd â'r fyddin ym 1915, gan ymuno ag uned feddygol y Morfilwyr Brenhinol. Dyfarnwyd y Fedal Filwrol iddo yn Ancre ac adroddir yn y London Gazette ym mis Chwefror 1917 ei fod wedi "dangos dewrder ac egni mawr wrth symud cleifion o safle a oedd wedi'i fomio'n drwm i un o ddiogelwch mawr." (gweler y copi). Mae'r cofnod hwn yn disgrifio'n union pryd y bu farw James ar 20 Tachwedd 1920, yn 32 oed, prin 11 diwrnod ar ôl i'r rhyfel ddod i ben. Mae'n bosibl mai James oedd un o nifer o ddiodefwrwr y fflw, neu Bandemig y Fflw 'Sbaenaidd' ym 1918, a aeth ymlaen i hawlio miliynau o fywydau. Mae wedi'i gladdu ym Mynwent Filwrol Etaples, Ffrainc. Galluogodd sawl adroddiad papur newydd wedi dilyn ei farwolaeth ni i olrhain James a'i wraig Elizabeth, a aeth i fyw yn 2 Glyncelyn, Felinfoel ym 1921. Bu farw yn 82 oed ac mae wedi'i chladdu gyda'i rhieni yn Felinfoel. Parhaodd nifer o frodyr a chwiorydd James i fyw yn y pentref, gan gynnwys Stryd y Frenhines, Pontrhydyfen.



Private Morgan Davies, Welsh Regiment, of Pontrhydyfen, who was formerly a collier working at Oakwood Colliery, was, at the Drill Hall, Port Talbot, on Monday, publicly invested with the D.C.M., which he won recently in France. A procession was formed from Station-square to the Drill Hall, in which a detachment of the R.D.C., V.A.D. and V.F.C. joined. Mr. Percy Jacob presided over the proceedings, and he was supported by the Mayor of Aberavon (Ald. J. M. Smith) and Major Perkins (Swansea). Major Perkins pinned the medal to the hero's breast amid cheers. As this was the first public investiture locally, much interest was taken in it. The procession was reformed, and escorted Private Davies to his home in Pontrhydyfen.

## *Pte. William Richard Davies (1896–1917)*

### **202819, Oxford & Bucks Light Infantry 1st / 4th Bn**

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Born in Pontrhydyfen, Williams' parents, siblings and grandparents initially lived in Cerrigllwydon before his parents (David Francis and Mary) moved to Bryn Mayrig, Efail Fach. The Davies family originally came from the Llansteffan area of Carmarthenshire before initially moving to Bryn then Pontrhydyfen in the 1850's. His mother, Mary originally came from Breconshire. His father worked as a Coal Miner Hewer, as did many of his siblings and uncles.

On November 25th 1917, William's Battalion was engaged in front line trenches near Le Sars on the Western Front. This area had known some of the bloodiest fighting in the Somme. The battalion experienced casualties from enemy fire and William was killed in action on this day, he was 21. He is buried in Brown's Copse Cemetery, Rouex, Pas de Calais, France. His widowed father continued living at the same address in Efail-fach and can be found in the 1921 census and 1939 Register. William is also memorialised on his parents' grave in Macpelah Chapel Cemetery.

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Cafodd William ei eni ym Mhontrhydyfen, er i'w rieni, plant eraill y teulu a'i dad-cu a mam-gu fyw l ddechrau yng Ngherrigllwyd, cyn i'w rieni (David Francis a Mary) symud i Fryn Mayrig, Efail Fach. Daeth y teulu Davies yn wreiddiol o ardal Llansteffan, Sir Gaerfyrddin, cyn symud i Fryn a wedyn l Bontrhydyfen yn y 1850au. Gweithiodd ei dad fel glöwr, yn debyg i sawl o'i frodyr ac ewyrthredd.

Ar Dachwedd 25ain, 1917, bu ei fataliwn yn ymladd yn y ffosydd llinell flaen ger Le Sars. Roedd yr ardal wedi gweld rhai o'r gwrthdrawiadau mwyaf gwaedlyd ar y Somme. Dioddefodd y bataliwn anafiadau trwm a chafodd William ei ladd y diwrnod hwn – bu'n 21 blwydd oed. Fe gladdwyd ef ym Mynwent Brown Copse, Rouex, Pas de Calais, France. Parhaodd ei dad gweddw i fyw yn yr un cyfeiriad yn Efail Fach a fe welir ei enw yng Nghyfrifiad 1921 a Chofrestr 1939. Mae enw William yn ymddangos hefyd ar fedd ei rieni ym Mynwent Capel Macpelah.

# *Pte. Thomas Fielding (1885–1916)*

## **8931, South Wales Borderers**

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Born in Cwmbran, Thomas lived in the Llantarnam and Cwmbran area with his parents, John Fielding and Elizabeth Murphy and many siblings. The Fielding's were originally from Cork, Ireland. It is probable that at least three Fielding brothers came to the Abergavenny area following the 1840's Irish Famine. Thomas' father John was for a professional soldier, and we will pick up his story at the end of this biography.

Census records show that it was common for the Fielding extended family to live with one another. In 1901, Thomas was living working as a blast furnace labourer, living with his parents and family at 10 Pritchard Terrace, Llantarnam. Thomas followed his father by enlisting into the South Wales Borderers in March 1904. Several of Thomas' relatives moved to Pontrhydyfen during these years and by 1911, Thomas' uncle, William Fielding was living with his family at 1 Queen Street. His cousin, Michael Fielding and family were living at The Huts, Pontrhydyfen. We have not been able to confirm that Thomas had actually lived in the village as census records only capture residents residing at an address on a specific date.

By 1911, the census showed that Thomas had been posted to Pretoria South Africa. With the outbreak of war, the 1st Battalion was taken by rail to Southampton, arriving at Le Havre on 13 August 1914. Its first major baptism of fire was the Battle of the Aisne. It was deployed near the village of Vendresse from 18-20 September, and suffered further casualties during this battle at the neighbouring village of Chivy on 26 September 1914. This action marked the transition from a mobile war to the static trench warfare that would define the Western Front for years to come. Thomas is recorded as being killed in action on the 26th September 1914. He was aged 29, his body was never recovered, and he is commemorated on the La-Ferte-Sous-Jouarre memorial, Seine-et-Maine, France. The Fielding family continued to live in Pontrhydyfen and Thomas' parents continue to live in the Llantarnam area after the war.

### **John Williams VC (born John Fielding 1857 – 1932).**

John's life is well documented. Born to Irish Catholic parents in Abergavenny, Monmouthshire he gave a false surname of Williams when he joined the military, it is not known exactly why. He was 21, when he was posted to South Africa during the Anglo-Zulu War in the 2nd Battalion, 24th Regiment of Foot (later the South Wales Borderers). On 22-23rd January 1879, John was at Rorke's Drift, when along with Henry Hook, evacuated many patients from the hospital. He was awarded the Victoria Cross.

### **Supplement to the London Gazette, 2nd May 1879, Numb 24717, pp 3177-78**

His citation reads: "Private John Williams was posted with Private Joseph Williams, and Private William Horrigan, 1st Battalion 24th Regiment, in a distant room of the hospital, which they held for more than an hour, so long as they had a round of ammunition left: as communication was for the time cut off, the Zulus were enabled to advance and burst open the door; they dragged out Private Joseph Williams and two of the patients, and assegaied them. Whilst the Zulus were occupied with the slaughter of these men a lull took place, during which Private John Williams, who, with two patients, were the only men now left alive in this ward, succeeded in knocking a hole in the partition, and in taking the two patients into the next ward, where he found Private Hook. These two men together, one man working whilst the other fought and held the enemy at bay with his bayonet, broke through three more partitions, and were thus enabled to bring eight patients through a small window into the inner line of defence. and two other men held a hospital room from attackers." John had a full military funeral in 1932 which can be seen in Pathe news reel on YouTube.

\*Many people from Pontrhydyfen will be familiar with the film Zulu, which depicts 'cinematic representation' of events at Rorke's Drift. By co-incidence, it stars two of Pontrhydyfen-born celebrities, Ivor Emmanuel and the voice of Richard Burton in the film.

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Cafodd Thomas ei eni yng Nghwbrân a thrigodd yn ardal Llantarnam a Chwbrân gyda'i rieni, John Fielding ac Elizabeth Murphy a sawl o'u plant eraill. Daeth y Fieldings yn wreiddiol o Cork, Iwerddon. Mae'n debygol bod o leiaf tri brawd Fielding wedi dod i ardal Y Fenni ar ôl Newyn Gwyddelig y 1840au. Bu tad Thomas yn filwr proffesiynol a fe welir ei hanes ar ddiwedd y bywgraffiad hwn.

Mae cofnodion Cyfrifiad yn dangos ei fod yn arferol i'r teulu estynedig fyw gyda'i gilydd. Ym 1901 roedd Thomas yn gweithio fel llafurwr ffwrnais dawdd, ac yn byw gyda'i rieni a theulu yn 10, Pritchard Terrace, Llantarnam. Dilynodd Thomas ei dad gan ymrestru â'r South Wales Borderers ym Mawrth, 1904. Symudodd sawl o'i geraint i Bontrhydyfen ac erbyn 1911 roedd ewythr Thomas, William Fielding a'i deulu yn byw yn 1, Queen Street. Roedd ei gefnder, Michael Fielding a'i deulu yn byw yn The Huts, Pontrhydyfen. Nid yw wedi bod yn bosibl cadarnhau bod Thomas ei hun wedi byw yn y pentref, gan fod cofnodion Cyfrifiad ond yn dangos enwau trigolion ar ddyddiad penodol.

Erbyn 1911, mae'r Cyfrifiad yn dangos bod Thomas wedi derbyn 'posting' i Bretoria, De Affrica. Ar gychwyn y rhyfel, aeth y Bataliwn 1af gan reilffordd i Southampton, a wedi cyrraedd Le Havre ar Awst 13eg, 1914. Ei fedydd tân cyntaf oedd Brwydr yr Aisne. Cafodd y bataliwn ei leoli ger pentref Vendresse rhwng Rhagfyr 18fed a'r 20fed, a wedi dioddef mwy o adnafiadau yn ystod y frwydr hon wrth pentref cyfagos, Chivy, ar Ragfyr 26ain. Fe nodir y frwydr hon fel y trawsfudiad o ryfel symudol at ryfel y ffosydd statig a fyddai'n diffinio'r 'Western Front' am flynyddoedd.

Cofnodir marwolaeth Thomas wrth ymladd ar Fedi 26fed, 1914. Bu'n 29 blwydd oed. Ni chafodd ei gorff ei adeunill, ond mae'n cael ei goffáu ar gofeb La Ferté-sous-Jouarre, Seine-et-Maine, France. Parhaodd y teulu Fielding i fyw ym Mhontrhydyfen, a pharhaodd rhieni Thomass i fyw yn ardal Llantarnam ar ôl y rhyfel.

### **No. 11 John Williams V.C. (A aned yn John Fielding)**

Fe gofnodir bywyd John yn dda iawn. Mab rhieni Catholig Gwyddelig yn Y Fenni, Sir Fynwy, rhoddodd y cyfenw ffug 'Williams' pan ymunodd â'r fyddin – nid yw yn hysbys yn union pam. Bu yn 21 blwydd oed pan gafodd ei anfon i Dde Affrica yn ystod y Rhyfel Eingl-Zulu, yn aelod o 2nd Battalion, 24th Regiment of Foot (Hwyrach y South Wales Borderers). Ar Ionawr 22ain – 23ain, 1879, bu John yn Rorke's Drift, pan gyda Henry Hook symudodd sawl claf o'r ysbyty. Derbyniodd y Victoria Cross am ei weithredoedd.

### **Atodiad i'r London Gazette, Mai 2il, 1879., Rhif 24717, Tudalennau 3177-3178**

Yn ô lei 'citation': Cafodd Preifat John Williams ei leoli gyda Phreifat Joseph Williams a Phreifat William Horrigan, Batalion 1af, Catrawd 24ain, mewn ystafell bell yr ysbyty, a'i hamddiffynwyd ganddynt am dros awr, tra roedd ganddynt adnoddau saethu; gan fu cyfathrebu yn amhosib am gyfnod, roedd y Zulus yn gallu symud ymlaen a wedi ffrwydro ar agor y drws. Fe wnaethon nhw lusgo allan Preifat Joseph Williams a dau o'r cleifion ac eu lladd ag assegaïs; tra i'r Zulus eu lladd, digwyddodd gosteg, ac yn ystod hyn mae Preifat John Williams – a oedd gyda dau glaf a oedd yr unig dynion i ddal yn fyw yn y ward hyn – wedi llwyddo i dorri twll yn y pared, ac wrth fynd â'r cleifion i'r ward nesaf wedi darganfod Preifat Hook. Gydag un yn gweithio wrth i'r llall ymladd yn erbyn a chadw draw y gelyn gyda'i fidog, mae'r ddau ddyn wedi torri trwy dri phared mwy, sydd wedi eu galluogi i ddod ag wyth claf trwy ffenest fach i'r llinell amddiffyniad mewnol, a mae dau ddyn arall wedi dal ystafell ysbyty yn erbyn ymosodwyr. Cafodd John angladd milwrol llawn ym 1932, y gellir ei weld mewn ffilm newyddion Pathé ar YouTube.

\*Mi fydd llawer o bobl Pontrhydyfen yn gyfarwydd â'r ffilm 'Zulu', sydd yn darlunio 'portread sinematig' o ddigwyddiadau Rorke's Drift. Yn gyd-ddigwyddiadol, enwogion Pontrhydyfen yw dwy seren y ffilm – sef Ivor Emmanuel a (llais) Richard Burton.

## *Gnr. John Fisher (1886–1918)*

### **282526, Royal Garrison Artillery**

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Born in Pontycymer in the Garw Valley, John lived with his parents (Noah and Elizabeth) and several siblings. He marries Ester Alice Davies who lived in Blaenavon Tce, Tonmawr in around 1908, in Neath. Ester has a sister Mary Jane who is married to David Roger Curtis (who is also commemorated on the memorial). In 1911, both sisters are living together with their husbands and children in 9 Blaenavon Tce. John is recorded as working as a Coal Haulier, underground. His attestation papers survive, John enlists on 20th August 1914, 16 days after Britain entered the First World War. He was posted on September the 9th and is described as being 5' 8", weighing 11st 1lb, having a fresh complexion, brown hair and blue eyes. By then he had two sons, David John (born in 1909) and Richard Arthur (born in 1912) and the family were living in 5 Upper Fforchdwm, Pontrhydyfen.

Italy was an ally in WW1 and in November 1917 had suffered heavy defeats following the Battle of Caporetto. The Royal Garrison Artillery was reorganised to reinforce allied Italian troops and the lesser-known Italian Front. Records show that

John was killed in action, aged 32 years on 1st January 1918 and is buried in Giavera British Cemetery, Arcade, Italy. By 1921 Alice had remarried and was living with their sons and stepchildren at 5 Blaenavon Tce.

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Cafodd John ei eni ym Mhontcymer, Cwm Garw, a thrigodd gyda'i rieni (Noah ac Elizabeth) a sawl eraillo'u plant. Priododd Ester Alice Davies, a oedd yn byw yn Nheras Blaenavon, Tonmawr o gwmpas 1908. Roedd gan Ester chwaer, Mary Jane, gwraig David Roger Curtis (sydd hefyd yn cael ei gofio ar y Gofeb). Ym 1911, roedd y ddwy chwaer yn byw gyda'i gilydd gyda'u gwŷr a'u plant yn 9, Teras Blaenavon. Fe gofnodir John yn gweithio fel Torwr Glo Tanddaearol. Mae ei bapurau ardystiad yn bod o hyd:

ymrestrodd â'r fyddin ar Awst 20fed, 1914 – 16 diwrnod ar ôl i Prydain ymuno â'r Rhyfel Byd Cyntaf, a chafodd ei 'posting' ar Fedi 9fed. Fe ddisgrifir ef fel 5' 8", yn pwysu 11 stôn 11 pwys, gyda phryd golau, gwallt brown a llygaid glas. Erbyn hyn roedd ganddo ddau fab, David John (Ganwyd 1909) a Richard Arthur (Ganwyd 1912), a roedd y teulu yn byw yn 5, Upper Fforchdwm, Pontrhydyfen.

Yn ystod y Rhyfel Byd Cyntaf bu'r Eidal yn gynghreiriad (ally), ac yn Nhachwedd 1917 roeddent wedi dioddef gorchfygiadau trwm ar ôl Brwydr Caporetto. Ail-drefnwyd y Royal Garrison Artillery er mwyn atgyfnerthu'r milwyr Eidaleg yn y theatr rhyfel llai-hysbys yma. Mae recordiau yn dangos bod John wedi cael ei ladd wrth ymladd yn 32 blwydd oed ar Ionawr 1af, 1918 a bod ei fedd ym Mynwent Brydeinig Giavera, Arcade, yr Eidal.. Erbyn 1921 roedd Alice wedi ail-briodi a roedd yn byw gyda'i meibion a'i llysblant yn 5, Teras Blaenavon.

## *Lt T. Green*

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It has been only possible to definitively confirm details from a single newspaper record published on November 17th, 1916. It states that "sympathies were passed to Mrs Green, who had recently been notified of the death of her husband Lt Green, Light Garrison Artillery. Prior to the war he had been employed as a librarian at the Bryn Library and Reading Room".

Bryn Library opens in 1909, but there are no record of T. Green living in Bryn on the 1911 census. Records cannot definitively link him to the Thomas Green from Swansea mentioned below and there is no newspaper report of a DCM award in the above article. The article would fit in the timeline given as there is only one Lieutenant T (Thomas) Green on the CWGC website.

### **2nd Lt. Thomas Green (1887 – 1916) DCM**

#### **22489, Royal Garrison Artillery, 10th Siege Bty**

Thomas was born in Swansea, his parents Thomas and Ann were originally from Gloucestershire, but they moved with their young family to Swansea

where Thomas worked as a gardener to the Dillwyn and Vivian families in Parc-wern House, Sketty. In 1911, Thomas is recorded as serving as acting Bombardier, Royal Artillery Barracks Great Yarmouth. He was awarded a DCM in early 1916 for conspicuous gallantry. His Commonwealth Graves record links his wife Kate living in Great Yarmouth and his father Thomas living in Swansea.

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Dim ond o un cofnod papur newydd, a gyhoeddwyd ar Dachwedd 17eg, 1916, y bu'n bosibl cadarnhau manylion yn bendant. Mae'n nodi bod "cydymdeimlad wedi'i estyn i Mrs Green, a oedd wedi cael gwybod yn ddiweddar am farwolaeth ei gŵr Is-gapten Green, Magnelau Garsiwn Ysgafn. Cyn y rhyfel roedd wedi bod yn gweithio fel llyfrgellydd yn Llyfrgell ac Ystafell Ddarllen Bryn".

Agorodd Llyfrgell Bryn ym 1909, ond nid oes unrhyw gofnod o T. Green yn byw yn y Bryn ar gyfrifiad 1911. Ni all cofnodion ei gysylltu'n bendant â'r Thomas Green o Abertawe a grybwyllir isod ac nid oes unrhyw adroddiad papur newydd am wobwr DCM yn yr erthygl uchod. Byddai'r erthygl yn cyd-fynd â'r amserlen a roddir, gan mai dim ond un Is-gapten T (Thomas) Green sydd ar wefan CWGC.

### **2il Is-gapten Thomas Green (1887 – 1916) DCM**

#### **22489, Magnelau Garsiwn Brenhinol, 10fed Bataliwn Gwarchae**

Ganwyd Thomas yn Abertawe, roedd ei rieni Thomas ac Ann yn wreiddiol o Swydd Gaerloyw, ond symudon nhw gyda'u teulu ifanc i Abertawe lle gweithiai Thomas fel garddwr i deuluoedd Dillwyn a Vivian yn Nhŷ Parc-wern, Sgeti. Ym 1911, cofnodwyd bod Thomas yn gwasanaethu fel Magnelwr dros dro, Barics Magnelau Brenhinol Great Yarmouth. Dyfarnwyd DCM iddo ddechrau 1916 am ddewrder amlwg. Mae ei gofnod Beddau'r Gymanwlad yn ei gysylltu â'i wraig Kate. oedd yn byw yn Great Yarmouth, a'i dad Thomas, yn Abertawe.



## *Pte. David Morgan Hopkins (1890–1915)*

**16931, South Wales Borderers, 6th Btn.**

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Born in Kenfig Hill in 1890, son of Hugh (Iron Roller man) and Margaret Leyshon. David came from a large family with several older siblings. An older brother, Hugh Leyshon Hopkins, wife Eleanor and family lived in 2 Station Road, Pontrhydyfen in the 1911 Census. Other member of the family were living in Cymmer at this time including David's parents who were living in Sunnyside, Cymmer. However, David was not at either of these addresses on the night of the census.

He was married in 1913 to Margaret Jane Jenkins\*, who lived at 3 Horseshoe Cott, Lewis Street, Pontrhydyfen. We do not have any information about David's military service, when or where he sustained his injuries, but he is recorded as dying from wounds in the Royal Victoria Military Hospital, Netley Hampshire on 17th November 1915 aged 25. He is buried in Macpelah Cemetery. Margaret is recorded as David's next of kin and on his war pension records. By 1921, his brother Hugh and family were still living in Station Terrace. Margaret was also living in the same street with her younger brother.

\*NOTE: Margaret's younger brother James died the following year (1916) and is also commemorated on the memorial.

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Ganwyd ym Mynydd Cynffig ym 1890, mab Hugh (dyn Rholer Haeearn) a Margaret Leyshon. Daeth David o deulu mawr gyda nifer o frodyr a chwiorydd hŷn. Roedd brawd hŷn, Hugh Leyshon Hopkins, ei wraig Eleanor a'i deulu yn byw yn 2 Station Road, Pontrhydyfen yng Nghyfrifiad 1911. Roedd aelodau eraill o'r teulu yn byw yng Nghymer ar yr adeg hon gan gynnwys rhieni David a oedd yn byw yn Sunnyside, Cymer. Fodd bynnag, nid oedd David yn y naill gyfeiriad na'r llall ar noson y cyfrifiad.

Priododd ym 1913 â Margaret Jane Jenkins\*, a oedd yn byw yn 3 Horseshoe Cott, Lewis Street, Pontrhydyfen. Nid oes gennym unrhyw wybodaeth am wasanaeth milwrol David, pryd na ble y cafodd ei anafiadau, ond mae wedi'i gofnodi fel un a fu farw o'i glwyfau yn Ysbyty Milwrol Brenhinol Victoria, Netley, Hampshire ar 17 Tachwedd 1915 yn 25 oed. Mae wedi'i gladdu ym Mynwent Macpelah. Mae Margaret wedi'i chofnodi fel perthynas agosaf David ac ar ei gofnodion pensiwn rhyfel. Erbyn 1921, roedd ei frawd Hugh a'i deulu yn dal i fyw yn Station Terrace. Roedd Margaret hefyd yn byw yn yr un stryd â'i brawd iau.

\*NODYN: Bu farw brawd iau Margaret, James, y flwyddyn ganlynol (1916) ac mae hefyd yn cael ei goffáu ar y gofeb.

## *Pte. James Jenkins (1892–1916)*

### **17579, Royal Welsh (Welch) Fusiliers**

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James was born in Pontrhydyfen, son of William (Coal miner) and Mary Jane. In 1911, the large family lived in Horseshoe Tce (Lewis St) and were next door neighbours of the Thomas family (see Morgan Thomas). James worked as a Collier (Hewer). On July 1st 1916, the Battle of the Somme, the biggest battle of WW1 opened with the Battle of Albert with British forces capturing Gommecourt, Mountauban and Mametz. It was one of the bloodiest days in history with over 57,000 British casualties and 19,240 killed. James is listed as being killed in action in Flanders on 6th July 1916 which saw 9,850 men losing their lives on this day. James was 24 years old. He is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, France. His family continued to live in Lewis Street after the war, his father William is recorded as an employee of Merthyr Llantwit Colliery, Tonmawr but was out of work because of the ongoing industrial dispute. His younger sister Sarah Jane was working as a goods clerk for the Rhondda & Swansea Bay Railway Co.

\*NOTE: James' elder sister, Margaret Jane, married David Morgan Hopkins in 1913. He joined the South Wales Borderers and died of his wounds in 1915. He is also commemorated on the memorial.

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Ganwyd James ym Mhontrhydyfen, yn fab i William (glöwr) a Mary Jane. Ym 1911, roedd y teulu mawr yn byw yn Horseshoe Tce (Lewis St) ac roeddent yn gymdogion drws nesaf i deulu Thomas (gweler Morgan Thomas). Gweithiodd James fel Glöwr (Torrwr). Ar Orffennaf 1af 1916, dechreuodd Brwydr y Somme, y frwydr fwyaf yn y Rhyfel Byd Cyntaf, gyda Brwydr Albert wrth i luoedd Prydain gipio Gommecourt, Mountauban a Mametz. Roedd yn un o'r dyddiau mwyaf gwaedlyd mewn hanes gyda dros 57,000 o anafiadau Prydeinig a 19,240 wedi'u lladd. Rhestrir James fel un a laddwyd mewn brwydr yn Fflandrys ar 6ed Gorffennaf 1916 pan gollodd 9,850 o ddynion eu bywydau ar y diwrnod hwn. Roedd James yn 24 oed. Mae wedi'i goffáu ar Gofeb Thiepval, Ffrainc. Parhaodd ei deulu i fyw yn Lewis Street ar ôl y rhyfel, mae ei dad William wedi'i gofnodi fel gweithiwr ym Mhwll Glo Merthyr Llanilltud, Ton-mawr ond roedd allan o waith oherwydd yr anghydfod diwydiannol parhaus. Roedd ei chwaer iau Sarah Jane yn gweithio fel clerc nwyddau i Gwmni Rheilffordd Bae Rhondda ac Abertawe.

\*NODYN: Priododd chwaer hynaf James, Margaret Jane, â David Morgan Hopkins ym 1913. Ymunodd â'r South Wales Borderers a bu farw o'i glwyfau ym 1915. Mae hefyd yn cael ei goffáu ar y gofeb.

## *Pte. Daniel John (1894–1916)*

**26283, Royal Welsh (Welch) Fusiliers, 17th Bn**

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Daniel was born in Tonmawr, with his parents, David (Ponrhydyfen) and Mary (Tonmawr) also coming from the area. In 1911, Daniel was living with his large family at 5 Abergwernffrwd Row, Tonmawr, he had seven brothers and three sisters. All the adult men worked as miners. Daniel enlisted in June 1915, and his papers show that the family lived in 5 Chapel Row, Tonmawr. Part of his attestation papers survive, and they show that he was fined 3 days' pay for having a dirty rifle on parade, soon after enlisting and again for returning late from leave.

By December 1915, his battalion lands in France. By April they were in Laventie, an area which was heavily fought over. Because of the high water table, old fortifications were defended by barbed wire. Several poems and art works depict warfare in the area and are in the Imperial War Museum collections. By June, Daniels battalion was in the trenches of the Western Front and on 8th June 1916, they prepared to move to the front trenches. He was killed in action on this date. He was 22. Daniel is buried in the Royal Irish Rifles Graveyard, Laventie, Pas de Calais, France.

Daniel's parents were still living at the same address in 1921 with three of their youngest sons. Several siblings were living in both Ponrhydyfen and Tonmawr. His father David, passed away in 1934.

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Cafodd Daniel ei eni yn Nhonmawr, gyda'i rieni, David (Ponrhydyfen) a Mary (Tonmawr), hefyd yn dod o'r ardal. Ym1911 roedd David yn byw gyda'i deulu mawr yn 5, Abergwenffrwd Row, Tonmawr: roedd ganddo saith brawd a thair chwaer. Bu'r holl oedolion gwrywaidd yn gweithio fel glowyr.

Ymrestrodd Daniel ym 1915 a mae ei bapurau milwrol yn dangos roedd y teulu yn byw yn 5, Chapel Row, Tonmawr. Mae rhan o'i ardystiad yn yn bod o hyd ac yn dangos ei fod wedi derbyn dirwy o gyflog tridiau am fod ar barêd gyda dryll budr yn fuan ar ôl iddo ymrestru, ac eto am ddychwelyd yn hwyr o wyliau.

Erbyn Rhagfyr 1915, glaniodd ei fataliwn yn Ffrainc ac erbyn mis Ebrill buon nhw yn Laventie, ardal a welodd ymladd trwm. Oherwydd lefel uchel o ddŵr yn y tir, diogelwyd hen amddiffynfeydd gyda gwifren bigog. Mae sawl cerdd ac eitemau celf sydd yn darlunio rhyfela yn yr ardal i'w gweld mewn casgliadau yr Imperial War Museum. Erbyn Mehefin, bu bataliwn Daniel yn ffosydd y Western Front, ac ar Fehefin 8fed, 1916, fe wnaethon nhw baratoi i symud i'r ffosydd blaen. Cafodd Daniel ei ladd ar y diwrnod hwn, a fe gladdwyd ef ym Mynwent y Royal Irish Rifles yn Laventie, Pas-de-Calais, France. Roedd rhieni Daniel yn dal i fyw yn yr un cyfeiriad ym 1921, gyda thri o'u meibion ieuaf, tra i sawl o'u plant eraill fyw ym Mhonrhydyfen a Thonmawr. Marwodd tad Daniel, David, ym 1934.

## *Sgt. David Thomas Jones (1879–1916)*

### **1111, East Surrey Rgt, 7th Bn**

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David was born in Llan-Fair-Nant-Gwyn, Pembrokeshire, son of John James Jones, a farm labourer and Rachel. The family worked as tenant farmers during his childhood. He lived with his siblings in the St Dogmaels area throughout his childhood. He married his wife Ann Hopkins who was originally from Llanelly in 1903. The Hopkins family had been living in Fforchdwm, Tonmawr from before 1891. By 1911, the couple are living with their son and three daughters in 3 Blaenavon Road, Tonmawr. David is working as a Coal Hower.

The 7th Battalion of the East Surrey regiment were moved to Loos on the 12th February 1916 which had seen many months of fighting the previous year. We do not have any information about David at this point, but he is recorded as dying from wounds on 22nd February 1916 aged 37. He is buried in Bethune Town Cemetery, Pays de Calais, France. His military records show that he left a widow and four young children. By 1921, Ann has remarried (John George) and now lives with two of her younger children and stepchildren in Old School Cottage, Tonmawr. Their two older children, Archibald and Elizabeth were living with Ann's parents in Tonmawr. David's father was still working at Hendy Farm, Blaenffos, Pembrokeshire and passed away in 1933.

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Cafodd David ei eni yn Llan-Fair-Nant-Gwyn, Sir Benfro, yn fab i John James Jones, llafurwr ffarm, a'i wraig Rachel. Gweithiodd y teulu fel ffermwyr deiliad yn ystod eiblentynod a fel plentyn bywiodd gyda phlant eraill ei rieni yn ardal St. Dogmaels. Priododd ei wraig Ann Hopkins, a oedd yn wreiddiol o Lanelly, ym 1903. Roedd y teulu Hopkins wedi bod yn byw yn Fforchdwm, Tonmawr, cyn 1891. Erbyn 1911, roedd y cwpl yn byw gyda'u mab a'u tair merch yn 3, Blaenavon Road, Tonmawr, gyda David yn gweithio fel 'Torrwr Glo'.

Ar Chwefror 12fed, 1916, symudwyd 7fed Bataliwn yr East Surrey Regiment i Loos, a oedd wedi gweld sawl mis o ymladd yn ystod y flwyddyn gynt. Ni does gennym unrhyw wybodaeth am David yr amser yna, ond fe gofnodir ef yn marw o'i anafiadau ar Chwefror 22ain, 1916, yn 37 blwydd oed. Fe gladdwyd ef ym Mynwent y Dref, Bethune, Pas-de-Calais, France. Mae ei recordiau milwrol yn dangos ei fod wedi gadael weddw a phedwar o blant ifanc. Erbyn 1921 roedd Ann wedi ail-briodi (John George), a roedd yn byw gyda dau o'i phlant iau a'i llysblant yn Old School Cottage, Tonmawr. Roedd ei dau blentyn hyn, Archibald ac Elizabeth, yn byw gyda rhieni Ann yn Nhonmawr. Roedd tad David yn dal i weithio ar Ffarm Hendy, Blaenffos, Sir Benfro, a marwodd ym 1933.

## *L. Corp Thomas Henry Jones (1896–1917)*

**11361, Dorset Rgt, 6th Btn**

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Thomas was born in Treharris, son of Henry and Rose Hannah Jones. Henry was a miner and was originally from Merthyr, whilst Rose came originally from Brierley Hill, Stafford. The large family eventually moved to Bryn, Port Talbot and in 1911 lived at 3 Coal Yard, Bryn. At that time, he was 15 and worked as a Coal Miner Hewer's help. He enlisted in Aberavon, and he rose to the rank of Lance Corporal, but we have very little information about his military service. But we know that the 6th Battalion of his regiment was moved to Flanders by April 1917. It is thought that they were involved in the Battle of Arras, as part of the British Expeditionary Force.

Thomas is recorded as being killed in action on 12th April 1917 aged 21. He is buried at the Tilloy British Cemetery, Tilloy-Les-Mofflaines, Pas de Calais, France. In 1921, his family is recorded living in Varteg Row, Bryn.

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Cafodd Thomas ei eni yn Nhreharris, yn fab i Henry a Rose Hannah Jones. Glöwr oedd Henry, yn wreiddiol o Ferthyr, tra i Rose ddod o Brierly Hill, Stafford. Symudodd y teulu mawr i Fryn, Port Talbot, ac ym 1911 roeddent yn byw yn 3, Coal Yard, Bryn. Ar y pryd roedd Thomas, a oedd yn 15 blwydd oed, yn gweithio fel cynorthwywr Torrwr Glo. Ymrestrodd yn Aberafan a chyrhaeddodd y gradd o Lance Corporal; ychydig iawn o wybodaeth sydd gennym am ei yrfa filwrol, ond fe wyddom fod 6ed Bataliwn ei gatrwd wedi cael ei anfon i Flanders erbyn 1917, a fe gredir eu bod nhw wedi cymeryd rhan ym Mrwydr Arras fel rhan o'r British Expeditionary Force.

Fe gofnodir ei farwolaeth wrth ymladd ar Ebrill 2il, 1917, yn 21 blwydd oed. Fe gladdwyd ef ym Mynwent Prydeinig Tilloy, Tilloy-les-Moufflaines, Pas-de-Calais, Ffrainc. Ym 1921 fe gofnodir ei deulu yn byw yn Varteg Row, Bryn.

## *Pte William Maddock Jones (1895–1917)*

**55684, Royal Welsh Fusiliers, 15th Btn.**

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William was born into a well known farming family in Bryn. His mother Esther Maddock inherited the large family farm (Drysiog Farm) before she married his father John Jones despite her having several brothers and sisters. It had been in the family for several generations and was well over 300 acres in size. He and his brothers lived on the farm in 1911. We have very little information about William's service record as he does not appear on the usual war casualty lists or war pensions records. He is recorded on the Royal Welsh Fusiliers website and in a single newspaper report as passing away on 31st July 1917. He would have been approximately 22 years old. On that day, The Royal Welsh Fusiliers are recorded to be part of the 38th (Welsh) Division, that attacked Pilckem Ridge during the opening of the Battle of Passchendaele (also known as the Third Battle of Ypres). The Welsh poet Hedd Wyn was also killed during this attack.

From this, we have been able to determine that William is buried in Belgium at the Welsh Cemetery (Caesar's Nose), West Vlaanderen. His family continued to farm their land after the war, albeit on a smaller acreage.

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Cafodd William ei eni yn aelod o deulu ffermio hysbys iawn ym Mryn. Er bod genddi sawl frawd a chwaer, ei fam, Ester Maddock, a etifeddodd y ffarm deuluol fawr (Ffarm Drysiog) cyn iddi briodi ei dad, John Jones. Roedd y ffarm wedi bod yn eiddo i'r teulu ers sawl genhedlaeth a roedd llawer dros 300 erw ei maint. Fe gofnodir William a'i frodyr yn byw ar y ffarm ym 1911.

Ychydig iawn o wybodaeth sydd gennym am yrfa filwrol William oherwydd nid yw yn ymddangos ar y rhestr arferol o gwympedigion rhyfel, nag yng nghofnodion pensiynau rhyfel. Fe gofnodir ef ar safle wê y Royal Welsh Fusiliers a hefyd mewn un adroddiad papur newyddion, yn marw ar Orffennaf 31ain, 1917, oddeutu 22 blwydd oed. Y diwrnod hwnnw fe gofnodir y Royal Welsh Fusiliers fel rhan o 38ain Adran (Cymreig) yn ymosod ar Pilckem Ridge yn ystod dechreuad Brwydr Passchendaele (a'i elwir hefyd 'Trydydd Brwydr Ypres').

Marwodd y bardd Cymreig Hedd Wyn hefyd yn ystod yr ymosodiad hwn. Gan ddefnyddio'r wybodaeth hon, fe wyddom bod William wedi cael ei gladdu yn y Mynwent Cymreig (Caesar's Nose), West Vlaanderen, Gwlad y Belg. Parhaodd ei deulu i ffermio eu tir ar ôl y rhyfel, ond ar fesur llai.

## *Sgt. Obs. Sidney Edward Lewis (1899–1917)*

**317179, RAF, 55th Sqdn.**

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Born in Pontrhydyfen, son of John & Mary. The family lived in Station Road, running both the butcher's shop and the King's Head. In 1911, he was still at school and lived with his family. Sidney joined the RAF on May 4th 1917. He is recorded on the Imperial War Museum website as being a medical student when he enlisted. His squadron (the 55th) flew bombing missions over Germany.

On August 13th 1918, during a raid targeting Mannheim, they were caught in thick cloud over Pfalzburg. This meant they were unable to reach their target and released their bombs over Bhul aerodrome instead. Whilst returning home they were attacked by six enemy aircraft. During the fight that followed, planes from both sides were lost including Sidney's aircraft. His pilot, EP Critchley was wounded but survived, Sidney however died in the crash. He was 19 years old. He is buried in Charmes Military Cemetery, Essegney, France. In the 1921 census record, his father is recorded as a licenced victualler living with the family at the Colliers Arms in Efail fach.

In 1928, a newspaper report shows that his younger brother Thomas Morgan Lewis gained a medical degree from Cardiff University with a distinction in human anatomy.

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Ganwyd ym Mhontrhydyfen, mab John a Mary. Roedd y teulu'n byw yn Station Road, gan redeg y siop gigydd a'r King's Head. Ym 1911, roedd yn dal yn yr ysgol ac yn byw gyda'i deulu. Ymunodd Sidney â'r RAF ar Fai 4ydd 1917. Mae wedi'i gofnodi ar wefan yr Amgueddfa Ryfel Ymerodrol fel myfyriwr meddygol pan ymunodd. Hedfanodd ei sgwadron (y 55fed) deithiau bomio dros yr Almaen.

At Awst 13eg 1918, yn ystod cyrch yn targedu Mannheim, cawsant eu dal mewn cwmwl trwchus dros Pfalzburg. Golygai hyn nad oeddent yn gallu cyrraedd eu targed a rhyddhawyd eu bomiau dros faes awyr Bhul yn lle. Wrth ddychwelyd adref ymosodwyd arnynt gan chwe awyren y gelyn. Yn ystod y frwydr a ddilynodd, collwyd awyrennau o'r ddwy ochr gan gynnwys awyren Sidney. Cafodd ei beilot, EP Critchley, ei anafu ond fe oroesodd, ond bu farw Sidney yn y ddamwain. Roedd yn 19 oed. Mae wedi'i gladdu ym Mynwent Filwrol Charmes, Essegney, Ffrainc. Yng nghyfrifiad 1921, mae ei dad wedi'i gofnodi fel tafarnwr trwyddedig yn byw gyda'r teulu yn y Colliers Arms yn Efail-fach.

Ym 1928, mae adroddiad papur newydd yn dangos bod ei frawd iau Thomas Morgan Lewis wedi ennill gradd feddygol o Brifysgol Caerdydd gyda rhagoriaeth mewn anatomeg ddynol.

## *Pte. Rees Price George Maggs (1895–1916)*

**36493, Royal Welsh Fusiliers, 1st Btn**

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Rees was born in Gilfach Goch, but he soon moved to Tonmawr with his parents Henry and Elizabeth who were originally from Monmouthshire. The rest of Rees' siblings were born in Tonmawr in the following years. The family lived in Fforchdwm Road, and in 1911, Rees was working as a Coal Miner, Hewer. In September 1915, his younger brother Robert was charged with 'degrading the King's Uniform' whilst drunk. He apparently had "borrowed" a military uniform to buy alcohol aged 14 years and fined 30 shillings. He was reported in the article as saying that he was "only having a bit of fun".

The Royal Welsh Fusiliers took part in the Battle of the Somme, including Mametz. On 3rd June 1916, Rees's battalion was positioned in the trenches opposite Fricourt. Rees died in action aged 21 on that day. He is buried in Delville Wood Cemetery, Longueval, Somme.

In 1921, the family were living in John's Terrace, Tonmawr and his relatives can still be found living in the village today.

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Ganwyd Rees yn Gilfach Goch, ond symudodd yn fuan i Don-mawr gyda'i rieni Henry ac Elizabeth a oedd yn wreiddiol o Sir Fynwy. Ganwyd gweddi brodyr a chwiorydd Rees yn Nhon-mawr yn y blynyddoedd canlynol. Roedd y teulu'n byw yn Ffordd Fforchdwm, ac ym 1911, roedd Rees yn gweithio fel Glöwr Glo, Naddwr. Ym mis Medi 1915, cyhuddwyd ei frawd iau Robert o 'ddiraddio Gwisg y Brenin' tra'n feddw. Yn ôl pob golwg, roedd wedi "benthyca" gwisg filwrol i brynu alcohol yn 14 oed, a derbyniodd ddirwy o 30 swllt. Adroddwyd yn yr erthygl ei fod yn dweud ei fod "dim ond yn cael ychydig o hwyl".

Cymerodd y Ffiwsilwyr Brenhinol Cymreig ran ym Mrwydr y Somme, gan gynnwys Mametz. Ar 3ydd Mehefin 1916, lleolwyd bataliwn Rees yn y ffosydd gyferbyn â Fricourt. Bu farw Rees mewn brwydr yn 21 oed ar y diwrnod hwnnw. Mae wedi'i gladdu ym Mynwent Delville Wood, Longueval, Somme.

Ym 1921, roedd y teulu'n byw yn John's Terrace, Ton-mawr a gellir dod o hyd i'w berthnasau yn byw yn y pentref hyd heddiw.

# Gnr Josiah Marston\* (1882-1917)

## W/1280, Royal Horse Artillery and Royal Field Artillery RFA B/162 Brigade

Josiah was born in Shrewsbury. It has been difficult to be definitive about his parents, family and his early life, but we think he is working as a 17-year-old cleaner at Shrewsbury GWR station. By 1910, electoral rolls show that he was living at 1 Bryn Zion Tce, Bryn with his wife Katherine Violet and his two children. He is working as a Coal Miner Hewer. By 1911, the family are living in 4 Meadow Row, Bryn. Before enlisting, the couple went onto have a third child.

From April to May 1917, the RHA & RFA were involved in the Battle of Arras on the Western Front. But it was costly, the British suffered 160,000 casualties and the German 6th Army about 125,000. Josiah is recorded as dying from wounds on May 16th, 1917, the same day the battle concluded. Josiah is buried at Faubourg D'Amiens Cemetery, Arras, Pas De Calais, France. By 1921, Katherine was still living in the same house but had remarried.

**\*Note the spelling variations on Josiah's surname (MARSTON / MARSDEN) and initials on the memorial and on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) website. We have successfully submitted an amendment form to the CWGC for his gravestone to alter his initials. His headstone will be replaced in due course.**

Ganwyd Josiah yn Amwythig. Mae wedi bod yn anodd bod yn bendant am ei rieni, ei deulu a'i fywyd cynnar, ond credwn ei fod yn gweithio fel glanhawr 17 oed yng ngorsaf GWR Amwythig. Erbyn 1910, mae cofresrau etholiadol yn dangos ei fod yn byw yn 1 Bryn Zion Tce, Bryn gyda'i wraig Katherine Violet a'i ddau o blant. Mae'n gweithio fel Cloddiwr Glo. Erbyn 1911, roedd y teulu'n byw yn 4 Meadow Row, Bryn. Cyn iddo ef ymuno, aeth y cwpl ymlaen i gael trydydd plentyn.

O fis Ebrill i fis Mai 1917, roedd yr RHA a'r RFA yn rhan o Frwydr Arras ar Ffrynt y Gorllewin. Ond roedd yn ddrud, dioddefodd y Prydeinwyr 160,000 o anafiadau a Chweched Byddin yr Almaen tua 125,000. Cofnodir bod Josiah wedi marw o'i glwyfau ar Fai 16eg, 1917, yr un diwrnod ag y daeth y frwydr i ben. Mae Josiah wedi'i gladdu ym Mynwent Faubourg D'Amiens, Arras, Pas De Calais, Ffrainc. Erbyn 1921, roedd Katherine yn dal i fyw yn yr un tŷ ond roedd wedi ailbriodi.

**\*Sylwch ar yr amrywiadau sillafu ar gyfenw Josiah (MARSTON / MARSDEN) a'i lythrennau cyntaf ar y gofeb ac ar wefan Comisiwn Beddau Rhyfel y Gymanwlad (CWGC). Rydym wedi cyflwyno ffurflen ddiwygio i'r CWGC yn llwyddiannus ar gyfer ei garreg fedd i newid ei lythrennau cyntaf. Bydd ei garreg fedd yn cael ei hamnewid maes o law.**

475895/433705  
Marston  
Josiah  
RFA 16.5.17 Woodbridge 6 19 8 ✓ - 7 2 Blackhall 23.7.17 R.P. Meds - 7 2  
B/162 Bde 5/17 6 14 7 14/9 17 19.9.17 wid Katherine 6 14 7 self children  
Summer died of 4/14 ✓ 2 1 ✓  
W/1280 Wounds  
15/11/9 3 Wid Katherine 10 - - P.D.

WAR CRUISE  
Effects 120.25/10  
Transfer 00902  
10 - -

A.F.V. SENT  
DATE 25/6/16

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## *Pte. David Thomas Miles (1895–1915)*

### **16592, Welsh Rgt / N. Staffs, 7th Batn**



David was born in Pontrhydyfen and lived with his mother Jennett, grandmother Ester, and extended family in Cerrigllwydon, later relocating to Bridge Row for a time. The Miles family had resided in Pontrhydyfen since the 1870s. Records indicate David may have been Jennett's only child.

By 1911, his mother had married John Henry Roberts, and David lived with them in Cwm Ifan Bach while working as a Coal Miner Hewer at Cynon Colliery. He initially joined the Welsh Regiment before transferring to the North Staffs Regiment. On August 7th, 1915, the 7th Battalion landed at Sulva Bay after previously being stationed at the Helles beachhead, having been specifically deployed to Gallipoli, Turkey. The Allies planned a series of attacks to break through Ottoman lines and take over the Gallipoli peninsula. Defeating the Ottoman Empire would result in access to strategic Russian ports as well as control of the Suez Canal. The poorly planned campaign resulted in heavy British casualties (estimated at 213,000), the majority actually being due to illness caused by unsanitary conditions (heat, swarms of flies, body lice, a severe lack of water and insufficient supplies). Commonwealth troops from Australia & New Zealand troops also fought at Gallipoli. Records show that David died from wounds on August 23rd, 1915, Gallipoli, Turkey, at 21 years of age. He is commemorated on the Helles War Memorial. It is unclear whether David had any interaction with, or was treated by, Dr PT Warren, a doctor from Tonmawr and Bryn who was also stationed in Gallipoli and who died the previous day. You can also read about him in this exhibition. Failure of the Gallipoli campaign led ultimately to a military withdrawal in early 1916 which resulted in both political and military repercussions at home, including those for a young Winston Churchill. Notices of his death and photograph were published in the Herald of Wales & Monmouthshire Recorder. His mother Jennett is listed on his pension records; by 1921, she was widowed and living with a stepson in Cwm Ifan Bach.

Cafodd David ei eni ym Mhontrhydyfen a bywiodd gyda'i fam, Jennett, mam-gu Ester a'u teulu estynedig yng Ngherrigllwydon, gan symud wedyn am gyfnod i Bridge Row. Roedd y teulu Miles wedi byw ym Mhontrhydyfen ers y 1870au. Mae recordiau yn awgrymu mai unig blentyn Jennett oedd David.

Erbyn 1911 roedd ei fam wedi priodi John Henry Roberts, a roedd David yn byw gyda nhw yng Nghwm Ifan Bach, yn gweithio fel Torwr Glo ym mhwl glo Cynon. Yn wreiddiol ymunodd â'r Welsh regiment, cyn trosglwyddo i'r North Staffs Regiment. Ar Awst 7fed, 1915, glaniodd y 7fed Bataliwn ym Mae Sulva ar ôl iddynt gael eu lleoli ynghynt ar safle glanio Helles, wedi cael eu hanfon yn benodol i Gallipoli, Twrci. Cynllunodd yr Allies gyfres o ymosodiadau i dorri trwy'r llinellau Ottoman a dal gorynys Gallipoli. Fe fuasai gorchfygiad yr Ymerodaeth Ottoman yn rhoi mynediad i borthladdoedd strategol Rwsiaid, yn ogystal â rheolaeth dros Gamlas Suez. Yn anffodus, fe gynllunwyd yr ymgyrch yn wael, a dioddefodd y Prydeinwyr golledigion trwm (fe amcangyfrir 213,000) – y mwyafrif o'r rhain oherwydd saldra a'i achoswyd gan amodau aflan (gwres, heidiau o glêr, llau corf, prinder mawr dŵr ac annigonedd adnoddau). Ymladdodd hefyd milwyr o Awstralia a Seland Newydd yng Ngallipoli. Mae recordiau yn dangos bu David farw o glwyfau ar Awst 23ain, 1915, yn 21 blwydd oed. Fe goffir ef ar Gofeb Rhyfel Helles. Nid yw yn hysbys os cafodd David unrhyw gyswllt gyda, nag os cafodd triniaeth gan Dr. P.T. Warren, meddyg o Donmawr a Bryn a oedd hefyd yng Ngallipoli ac oedd wedi marw y diwrnod cynt. (Cewch ddarllen amdano fe hefyd yn yr arddangosfa hon). Mae methiant ymgyrch Gallipoli wedi gorfodi ciliant milwrol yn gynnar ym 1916, a achosodd effeithiau politicaidd a milwrol ym Mhrydain, gan gynnwys rhai i'r Winston Churchill ifanc. Fe gyhoeddodd marwolaeth David gyda ffoto yn The Herald of Wales a'r Monmouthshire Recorder. Fe restrir ei fam, Jennett, ar ei recordiau pensiwn; erbyn 1921 roedd hi yn weddw ac yn byw gyda'i llysfab yng Nghwm Ifan Bach.

# *C. Sgt. Mjr. William Mitchener DCM (1881–1918)*

## **13906, South Wales Borderers, 5th Btn**

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Tracing William's background has been difficult to definitively find information about his parents and family. His military records state that he was born in Lewes, Sussex and he enlisted in Aberavon in 1914. A newspaper report shows he had links to the Bryn area in 1916 when he was presented with a tobacco pouch, pipe and purse. However, we do not have any further information about him working or living in the area. Most of the information has been gained from newspaper reports which record William being wounded in 1917. We think he is recorded as marrying his wife Rachel in 1917. William was awarded a Distinguished Conduct Medal (DCM), when he organised the rescue of 15 men who were buried following mortar fire and was reported in the London Gazette.

In March 1918, the German Spring Offensive or 'Kaiserschlacht' (Kaiser's Battle) saw mobile warfare return to the Western Front after years of stalemate. Around 10,000 guns fired over a million shells in five hours. On May 30th, 1918, the 5th Battalion of the South Wales Borderers were advancing in the area of the River Aisne near the town of Chambrecy. William was killed in action on that day aged 37 years. He is buried in Chambrecy British Cemetery, France.

Further newspaper reports show that Rachel was living in Mary Street, Bedwas, Caerphilly at the time of his death. One report states that perhaps he had previously been a professional soldier, serving in South Africa, but we have not been able to confirm this. Electoral rolls and the 1921 census showed that Rachel continued to live in the area. William is also commemorated on the war memorial in Caerphilly.

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Wrth ymchwilio cefndir William mae wedi bod yn anodd dod o hyd i unrhyw wybodaeth bendant am ei rieni a theulu. Mae ei recordiau milwrol yn datgan ei fod wedi cael ei eni yn Lewes, Sussex a'i fod wedi ymrestru yn Aberafan ym 1914. Mae adroddiad papur newyddion yn dangos bod ganddo gysylltiadau ag ardal Bryn ym 1916, pan dderbyniodd gyflwyniad o dybaco, pib a phwrs. Er hyn, nid oes gennym wybodaeth bellach amdano yn byw nag yn gweithio yn yr ardal. Fe gasglwyd mwyafrif y wybodaeth amdano o adroddiadau papurau newyddion, sydd yn cofnodi William yn cael ei glwyfo ym 1917. Rydym yn meddwl ei fod yn cael ei gofnodi yn priodi ei wraig, Rachel, ym 1917. Dyfarnwyd y Distinguished Service Medal iddo am drefnu acubiaeth 15 dyn a gladdwyd ar ôl bomio mortar, a chafodd ei enwi mewn erthygl yn y London Gazette.

Ym Mawrth 1918, fe welwyd rhyfel symudol yn dychwelyd i'r Western Front, ar ôl blynyddoedd o ryfel statig, wrth i'r Almaenwyr lansio ei ymgyrch y Gwanwyn, neu y 'Kaiserschlacht' (Brwydr y Kaiser). Taniodd o gwmpas 10,000 gwn dros filiwn o belennau magnel yn ystod pump awr. Ar Fai 10fed, 1918, roedd 5ed bataliwn y South Wales Borderers yn symud ymlaen yn ardal yr Afon Aisne, ger tref Chambrecy, pan gafodd William ei ladd. Bu yn 37 blwydd oed. Fe gladdwyd ef ym Mynwent Prydeinig Chambrecy, Ffrainc.

Mae adroddiadau papurau newyddion yn dweud bod Rachel yn byw yn Mary Street, Bedwas, Caerffili adeg ei farwolaeth. Mae un adroddiad yn datgan y gallai William fod yn filwr proffesiynol ynghynt yn Ne Affrica, ond nid yw wedi bod yn bosibl cadarnhau'r hyn. Mae Rhestr Etholiadol a Chyfrifiad 1921 yn dangos bod Rachel wedi parhau i fyw yn yr ardal. Fe goffir William ar gofeb rhyfel Caerffili.

## *Sapper Lionel Walter Oliver (1884–1917)*

### **6705, Royal Monmouth Engineers, 3rd Railway Convoy**

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Born in 1884, in Salisbury, Wiltshire, little can be confirmed about Lionel Walter's early life. We think his mother Henrietta died when he was a very young child followed by his father John (a watchmaker), a few years later. During the following years, census records indicate that Lionel Walter moved frequently in South Wales, living as a boarder at several addresses initially working as a labourer, then underground.

In 1904, he marries a Margaret Jane Harris and they go on to have a son, David. The couple do not appear as living together in the 1911 census. Lionel Walter is living in Bridge St , Kenfig Hill, whilst Margaret and their son are living with her brother in Trecynon, Aberdare. In 1915, Lionel Walter is recorded as marrying Mary Lily Fitzpatrick in Neath following the birth of their son Idris Francis in 1914. A single newspaper entry in December 1915 confirms that Sap W Oliver, Royal Engineers was presented in Bryn with a number of items including tobacco.

During World War I, the Royal Monmouth Engineers served primarily on the Western Front undertaking crucial tasks such as constructing railways, bridges and roads ensuring that critical infrastructure and communications remained intact. We do not have any information about Lionel, or his unit on the day that he died (13th February 1917), but we do know that a German raid on British Forces in the Ancre Valley resulted in 382 British casualties. Lionel Walter is buried nearby at Sever Cemetery Extension, Rouen. He was 34 years old.

Both women are registered as widows, living with their sons and extended families in Abercynon and Bryngurnos Street, Bryn in the 1921 census and 1939 England and Wales register.

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Cafodd Lionel Walter ei eni yn Salisbury, Wiltshire, ond ni wyddom lawer am ei fywyd cynnar. Credir bod ei fam, Henrietta, wedi marw pan roedd ef yn ifanc iawn a bod ei dad, John (gwneuthurwr oriorau) wedi marw ychydig o flynyddoedd wedyn. Yn ystod y blynyddoedd dilynol mae recordiau cyfrifiadau yn dangos bod Lionel Walter wedi symud yn aml yn Ne Cymru, gan fyw fel lletywr mewn sawl gyfeiriad, ac yn gweithio i ddechrau fel llafurwr a wedyn mewn swyddi tanddaearol.

Ym 1904 fe briododd Margaret Jane Harris a chawson nhw fab, David. Nid yw'r cwpl yn ymddangos i fyw gyda'i gilydd yng Nghyfrifiad 1911: mae Lionel Walter yn byw yn Bridge Street, Kenfig Hill, tra i Margaret a'u mab fyw gyda'i brawd hi yn Nhrecynon, Aberdâr. Ym 1915, fe gofnodir Lionel Walter yn priodi Mary Lily Fitzpatrick yng Nghastell Nedd ar ôl genedigaeth eu mab, Francis, ym 1914. Ym 1915, mae un cofnod papur newyddion yn cadarnhau bod 'Sapper W. Oliver, y Royal Engineers' wedi derbyn cyflwyniad o sawl eitem, gan gynnwys tybaco.

Yn ystod y Rhyfel Byd Cyntaf, lleolwyd y Royal Monmouth Engineers yn bennaf ar y Western Front, lle cwblhaon nhw dasgau hanfodol fel adeiladu rheilffyrdd, pontydd a ffyrdd er mwyn sicrhau i'r seilwaith angenrheidiol aros yn weithredol. Ni does gennym wybodaeth am Lionel Walter, nag am ei uned ar y diwrnod y bu farw (Chwefror 13eg, 1917), ond fe wyddom fod cyrch Almaeneg ar luoedd Prydeinig yng Nghwm Ancre wedi achosi 382 o anafiadau Prydeinig yr amser yna. Fe gladdwyd Lionel Walter yn Estyniad Mynwent Sever, Rouen, Ffrainc. Bu yn 34 blwydd oed.

Yng Nghyfrifiad a Chofrestr Lloegr a Chymru 1921 fe gofnodir dwy wraig Lionel Walter fel gweddwon, ac yn byw gyda'u meibion a theuluoedd estynedig yn Abercynon a Stryd Bryngurnos, Bryn.

## *Gnr. James Parker (1882–1918)*

**54625, Royal Garrison Artillery, 31st Heavy Bty.**

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James was born in Tonmawr in 1882, son of Edward (coal miner) and Mary. Although his parents came from Neath and Baglan respectively, the family lived in Aberdare in 1861 for a short time before moving to Tonmawr; initially to Tonmawr Row, then Tonmawr Cottages. In 1906, he married Maria Lewis, whose family also came from Tonmawr. James' father Edward passes away in 1908 and his will shows that he was the licenced victualler of the Railway Inn, Tonmawr. In 1911, the young family are recorded living at Marlborough House, Tonmawr with two of their young sons. They went onto have a third son in the following years.

A heavy battery of the Royal Garrison Artillery (RGA) was a unit of the British Army equipped with large-calibre 60-pounder guns used to inflict sustained bombardments. James' army records his birth year to be three years earlier (1879). On September 15th, 1918, James' battery was serving on the Western Front during the closing stages of WWI. He is recorded as being killed in action on that date, aged 39 (he was actually 36), he is buried in Queant Road Cemetery, Buissy, France. By 1921, Emily and their sons are living in 4 Chapel Road Tonmawr.

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Cafodd James ei eni yn Nhonmawr ym 1882, yn fab i Edward (glöwr) a Mary. Er i'w rieni ddod o Gastell Nedd a Baglan y naill y llall, am gyfnod byr yn ystod 1861 bywiodd y teulu yn Aberdâr cyn symud i Donmawr – i ddechrau i Tonmawr Row a wedyn i Tonmawr Cottages. Ym 1906 priododd James Maria Lewis, yr oedd ei theulu hi hefyd yn dod o Donmawr. Bu farw tad James, Edward, ym 1908 a mae ei ewyllys yn dangos ei fod yn dafarnwr y Railway Inn, Tonmawr. Ym 1911, fe gofnodi'r teulu ifanc yn byw ym Marlborough House, Tonmawr, gyda'u dau mab ifanc. Yn ystod y blynyddoedd dilynol cawsant drydydd mab.

Roedd bateri trwm y Royal Garrison Artillery (RGA) yn uned y Fyddin Brydeinig oedd wedi ei ddarparu â gynnu trigain pwys a'u defnyddwyd ar gyfer bomio parhaus. Mae recordiau milwrol James yn cofnodi ei flwyddyn geni fel 1879, yn dair blynedd ynghynt nag ei flwyddyn geni wirioneddol (1882). Ar Fedi 15fed, 1918, bu bateri James ar y Western Front, yn ystod cyfnod terfynol yr Rhyfel Byd Cyntaf. Fe cofnodir ei farwolaeth wrth ymladd ar y diwrnod hwn, yn 39 blwydd oed (er iddo fodd mewn girionedd yn 36), a fe gladdwyd ef ym Mynwent Queant Road, Buissy, Ffrainc. Erbyn 1921, bu Emily a'u meibion yn byw yn 4, Chapel Road, Tonmawr.

# *Pte John Thomas Savage (1885–1915)*

**32828, Welsh Rgt, 8th Btn.**

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John was born and brought up in the Aston area of Birmingham and lived with his mother (Elizabeth) and father (Francis, an Ironworker) and siblings. In 1901 he was working as an Iron driller aged 15. He married his wife Maud Stubbs in Birmingham in 1908. The couple soon moved to Bryn and by 1910, their daughter Winifred was born, and he was working as a boilerman at Bryn Navigation Colliery. That year, a newspaper reported that John was fined for failing to keep adequate water levels in the boilers. In 1911, the census showed that the young family lived in 7 Station Terrace Bryn.

John enlisted at Aberavon. His battalion embarked at Avonmouth on 15 June 1915 and landed at ANZAC cove on 5 August 1915. This was named because of the high numbers of Australian and New Zealand forces that landed and fought in the area. On the morning of the 8th August, the Wellington Battalion supported by the 8th Welch Regiment were to spearhead a renewed attack on Chunuk Bair after an artillery bombardment and massed machine gun fire commenced at 03.30.

The Wellingtons began to try and consolidate their positions. Behind them the 8th Welch Regiment suffered far more as they were exposed to a deadly enfilade fire (a volley of gunfire directed along a line from end to end) in reaching the summit. John is reported to have been 'killed in action (presumed)' on that day. He was 30. His remains were never recovered, and he is commemorated on the Helles Memorial, Gallipoli, Turkey. He is first man on this memorial to have been lost at Gallipoli in August 1915. By 1921, Maud had returned to Birmingham with their daughters Winifred and Sylvia, both of whom were born in Bryn. The family continued to live together and can be found at the same address, 12 Eldon Tce, Sparkbrook in the 1939 England and Wales Register.

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Cafodd John ei eni a thyfodd yn ardal Aston, Birmingham, a bywiodd gyda'i fam, Elizabeth, a'i dad, Francis (gweithiwr haearn), a'u plant eraill. Ym 1901, yn 15 blwydd oed, roedd yn gweithio fel Gweithiwr Tyllu Haearn. Priododd ei wraig, Maud Stubbs, ym Birmingham ym 1908; yn fuan ar ôl hyn, symudodd y cwpl i Fryn ac erbyn 1910 cafodd eu merch, Winifred, ei geni, gyda John yn gweithio fel Dyn Bwyler yn Bryn Navigation Colliery. Y flwyddyn hon, adroddodd papur newyddion fod John wedi derbyn dirwy am beidio cadw lefelau dŵr digonol yn y bwyleri. Ym 1911 mae'r Cyfrifiad yn dangos y teulu ifanc yn byw yn 7, Station Terrace, Bryn.

Ymrestrodd John yn Aberafan, a hwyliodd ei fataliwn o Avonmouth ar Fehefin 15fed, 1915, gan lanio yng Nghilan ANZAC ar Awst 5ed; derbyniodd y lleoliad ei enw oherwydd y nifer mawr o luoedd o Awstralia a Seland Newydd a glaniodd ac ymladdodd yn yr ardal. Ar fore Awst 8fed, gyda chefnogaeth yr 8fed Welch Regiment, bu'r Bataliwn Wellington yn arwain ymosodiad newydd ar Chunuk Bair ar ôl bomio magnelau a thanio dryllau peiriannol trwm sydd wedi dechrau am 03:30. Dechreuodd y Wellingtons i geisio cadarnhau eu safleoedd; y tu ôl iddynt, dioddefodd y Welch Regiment llawer mwy gan wrth gyrraedd y copa roeddent yn agored i effeithiau marwol tanio 'enfilade' – sef tanio gynnu ar hyd llinell o un pen i'r llall. Cofnodir John yn marw wrth ymladd (tybiedig) ar y diwrnod hwnnw. Bu yn 30 blwydd oed. Ni chafodd ei gorff erioed ei adennill, ond fe goffir ef ar Gofeb Helle, Gallipoli, Twrci. Fe yw'r dyn cyntaf ar y gofeb hon a gafodd ei ladd yng Ngallipoli yn Awst 1915. Erbyn 1921 roedd Maud wedi dychwelyd i Birmingham gyda'u merched, Winifred a Sylvia, a oedd wedi cael eu geni ym Bryn. Parhaodd y teulu i fyw gyda'i gilydd a mae Cofrestr Lloegr a Chymru 1939 yn eu dangos yn byw yn yr un cyfeiriad, 12, Eldon Terrace, Sparkbrook.

## *Pte Arthur James Stevens (1889–1917)*

**43279, Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 7th Btn.**

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Arthur was born in Llantwit, Neath. His parents, Samuel and Harriet originally came from Ubley, Nr. Bath, Somerset. They had already started a family before moving to Llantwit. Samuel worked originally as a farm labourer, but in time became a tenant farmer in the Cimla area living in Cefn Saeson Fawr and Caebryn. On the 1911 census, the family lived at Tynywaun Farm (the cottages found near to Level Crossing). Arthur and many of his many siblings worked on the family farms over the years.

We don't know when Arthur enlisted, but we know that the 7th Bn was involved in The Battle of Langemarck on August 16th, 1917. This was the second of the Third Battle of Ypres. Fierce fighting was reported and Arthur's battalion experienced heavy casualties suffering numerous deaths from heavy German shelling and German gas attacks. Arthur is recorded as being killed in action that day, aged 28. Many men from the battalion have no known grave and Arthur is recorded on the Tyne Cot Memorial, Belgium. His family continued to live in the area and by 1921, his father has retired. The couple are living with Arthur's youngest siblings in 3 Woodland Road, Neath.

**\*NOTE: We have submitted a changes form to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission due to the transcription errors in Arthur's name (transcribed as Archer J. Stephens). We are waiting for a reply**

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Cafodd Arthur ei eni yn Llantwit, Castell Nedd. Daeth ei rieni, Samuel a Harriet, yn wreiddiol o Ubley, yn ymyl Bath, Gwlad-yr-Haf. Roeddent wedi dechrau teulu yn barod cyn symud i Llantwit. Yn wreiddiol, gweithiodd Samuel fel ffarmwr deiliad yn ardal Cimla, gan fyw yng Nghefn Saeson Fawr a Chaebryn. Yng Nghyfrifiad 1911, roedd y teulu yn byw ar Ffarm Tynywaun (y bythynnod yn agos at y Level Crossing). Gweithiodd Arthur a sawl o blant eraill y teulu ar y ffarm dros y blynyddoedd.

Ni wyddom pryd ymrestrodd Arthur, ond fe wyddom fod y 7fed Bataliwn wedi cymeryd rhan ym Mrwydr Langemarck ar Awst 16eg, 1917. Ail Frwydr Ypres oedd y brwydr hwn. Bu ymladd ffyrnig a dioddefodd bataliwn Arthur golledigion trwm, gan ddioddef llawer o farwoliaethau oherwydd bomio trwm ac ymosodiadau nwy gan yr Almaenwyr. Fe gofnodir Arthur yn marw wrth ymladd y dirwnod hwn, yn 28 blwydd oed. Mae llawer o ddynion y bataliwn heb fedd hysbys; fe gofnodir enw Arthur ar Gofeb Tyne Cot, Gwlad Belg. Parhaodd ei deulu i fyw yn yr un ardal, ac erbyn 1921 roedd ei dad wedi ymddeol, gyda fe a'i wraig yn byw gyda'u plant ieuengaf yn 3, Woodland Road, Castell Nedd.

**D.S. Rydym wedi anfon ffurflen newidiadau i'r Commonwealth Graves Commision oherwydd camgymeriadau copïon yn enw Arthur ('Archer') James Stevens ('Stephens') ac yn disgwyl ymateb.**

# *Lt. Morgan Thomas (1893–1919)*

## **South Wales Borderers**

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Morgan was born in Pontrhydyfen, son of Thomas and Mary. The large family lived initially in Efail Fach before moving to 3 Horseshoe Cottages, Lewis St. His father initially worked as a miner before becoming an Insurance Agent. In the 1911 Census, Morgan is not recorded at the family home. His sister Mary Hannah was working as a schoolteacher for the council.

In March 1918, there are several local newspaper reports of Morgan sustaining injuries and being treated at Sketty War Hospital. Despite searching, we do not have any further information about his military service.

Later he is recorded as passing away in Whitchurch War (Military) Hospital, Cardiff from wounds sustained during the conflict after the war had ended on 26th July 1919. Morgan is buried in Jerusalem Cemetery in Pontrhydyfen alongside his parents and his brother William. His gravestone states that he was injured on April 23rd, 1917. We cannot be sure where he sustained his injuries but at that time some of the Battalions of the South Wales Borderers were involved in the Battle of Arras.

After his death, his brother Daniel Griffith Thomas acted as executor of his will. Many of the siblings continued to live in Pontrhydyfen and Oakwood after the war. His brother David also went into the teaching profession.

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Ganwyd Morgan ym Mhontrhydyfen, yn fab i Thomas a Mary. Roedd y teulu mawr yn byw yn Efail-fach i ddechrau cyn symud i 3 Horseshoe Cottage, Stryd Lewis. Gweithiodd ei dad fel glöwr i ddechrau cyn dod yn Asiant Yswiriant. Yng Nghyfrifiad 1911, nid yw Morgan wedi'i gofnodi ar aelwyd y teulu. Gweithiai ei chwaer Mary Hannah fel athrawes ysgol i'r cyngor.

Ym mis Mawrth 1918, mae sawl adroddiad papur newydd lleol yn nodi fod Morgan wedi'i anafu a'i drin yn Ysbyty Rhyfel Sgeti. Er gwaethaf chwilio, nid oes gennym unrhyw wybodaeth bellach am ei wasanaeth milwrol.

Cofnodwyd yn ddiweddarach iddo farw yn Ysbyty Rhyfel yr Eglwys Newydd (Milwrol), Caerdydd o glwyfau a dderbyniodd yn ystod y gwrthdaro ar ôl i'r rhyfel ddod i ben ar 26 Gorffennaf 1919. Mae Morgan wedi'i gladdu ym Mynwent Jerusalem ym Mhontrhydyfen ochr yn ochr â'i rieni a'i frawd William. Mae ei garreg fedd yn nodi iddo gael ei anafu ar Ebrill 23ain, 1917. Ni allwn fod yn siŵr ble y cafodd ei anafiadau ond ar y pryd roedd rhai o luoedd Cyffinwyr y De yn rhan o Frwydr Arras.

Ar ôl ei farwolaeth, gweithredodd ei frawd Daniel Griffith Thomas fel ysgutor ei ewyllys. Parhaodd llawer o'r brodyr a chwiorydd i fyw ym Mhontrhydyfen ac Oakwood ar ôl y rhyfel. Aeth ei frawd David hefyd i'r proffesiwn addysgu.

## *Capt. Peyton Tollemache Warren (1889–1915)*

**1st / 3rd Welsh Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps**

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Peyton was born in Dublin, the eldest son of Isaac Peyton Warren and Hannah. By 1901, the family lived in Kilcorkey, Galway, were Anglican, and employed two servants. Isaac may have played Rugby Union for Ireland in 1883 and later worked at the Guinness Brewery in Dublin; the family remained relatively affluent.

Peyton trained as a doctor, becoming a member of the Irish Royal College of Physicians (1904) and Surgeons (1909). He lived in the 'Doctors house' in Tonmawr for several years and is recorded on the 1911 census as a Collier's Doctor. He was found on the electoral rolls in Tonmawr until 1913. Several newspaper reports show that Peyton took part in community and sporting events and also used his physician skills in several local incidents, including going to the aid of injured locals (see his involvement in attempts to resuscitate a drowned Pontrhydyfen miner).

He later moved to nearby Bryn and is recorded as the local medical officer and public vaccinator, again taking part in several community clubs. The London Gazette reports him as having the rank Lieutenant on 9th June 1913.

During WWI, the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Welsh Field Ambulance, part of the RAMC, served with the 53rd (Welsh Division) at Gallipoli. They landed at Sulva Bay in early August 1915. On August 14th, the ill-fated Sulva Bay offensive was underway with the British Command reporting severe deficiencies in artillery and supplies. There are several reports of how Peyton was killed, just within a couple of weeks of arriving. It is reported that he died of wounds on August 14th, sustained when a bomb exploded at a dressing station. He was aged 27. He is one of three men commemorated on this memorial. The people of Bryn unveiled a stained-glass window dedicated to Peyton in Bryn Church 1918.

It seems that the family left Ireland after the Irish War of Independence. In the late part of the 1920's his brother Robert is recorded as living in Mayfair, London and went onto serve as a Captain in the Royal Army Service Corps, serving for a time in Bombay. His father moved to Epsom Surrey at some point in the 1930s.

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Ganwyd Peyton yn Nulyn, mab hynaf Isaac Peyton Warren a Hannah. Erbyn 1901, roedd y teulu'n byw yn Kilcorkey, Galway, yn Anglicaniaid, ac yn cyflogi dau was. Efallai bod Isaac wedi chwarae Rygbi'r Undeb dros Iwerddon ym 1883 ac yn ddiweddarach wedi gweithio ym Mragdy Guinness yn Nulyn; arhosodd y teulu'n gymharol gyfoethog.

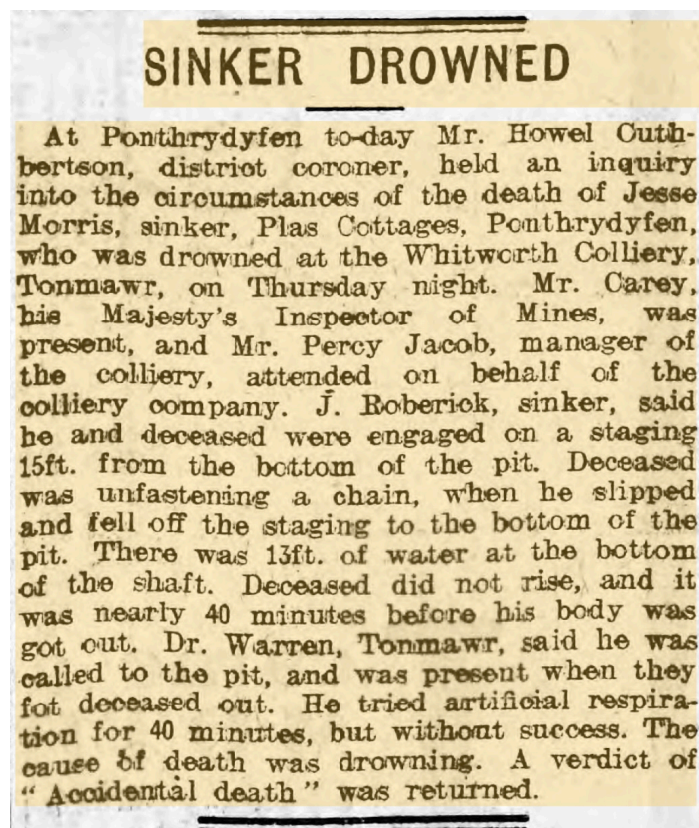
Hyfforddodd Peyton fel meddyg, gan ddod yn aelod o Goleg Brenhinol Meddygon Iwerddon (1904) a Llawfeddygon (1909). Bu'n byw yn 'nhŷ'r Meddygon' yn Nhon-mawr am sawl blwyddyn ac mae wedi'i gofnodi ar gyfrifiad 1911 fel Meddyg Glowyr. Roedd ar y gofrestr etholiadol yn Nhon-mawr tan 1913. Mae sawl adroddiad papur newydd yn dangos bod Peyton wedi cymryd rhan mewn digwyddiadau cymunedol a chwaraeon a hefyd wedi defnyddio ei sgiliau meddyg mewn sawl

digwyddiad lleol, gan gynnwys mynd i gynorthwyo trigolion lleol a anafwyd (gweler ei ran mewn ymdrechion i adfywio glöwr o Bonthrydyfen a foddwyd).

Yn ddiweddarach symudodd i'r Bryn gerllaw ac mae wedi'i gofnodi fel y swyddog meddygol lleol a'r brechliniwr cyhoeddus, gan gymryd rhan eto mewn sawl clwb cymunedol. Mae'r London Gazette yn adrodd fod ganddo rheng Lefftenant ar 9 Mehefin 1913.

Yn ystod y Rhyfel Byd Cyntaf, gwasanaethodd gyda'r Ambiwylans Maes Cymreig 1af, 2il a 3ydd, rhan o'r RAMC, gyda'r 53ain (Adran Gymreig) yng Ngallipoli. Glaniasant ym Mae Sulva ddechrau mis Awst 1915. Ar Awst 14eg, roedd ymosodiad trychinebus Bae Sulva ar y gweill gyda'r Gorchymyn Prydeinig yn adrodd am ddiffygion difrifol mewn magnelau a chyflenwadau. Mae sawl adroddiad o sut y lladdwyd Peyton, o fewn ychydig wythnosau i gyrraedd. Dywedir iddo farw ar Awst 14eg, o glwyfau a gafodd pan ffrwydrodd bom mewn gorsaf wisgo. Roedd yn 27 oed. Mae'n un o dri dyn sy'n cael eu coffáu ar y gofeb hon. Datgelwyd ffenestr wydr lliw gan bobl y Bryn, a gysegrwyd i Peyton, yn Eglwys Bryn ym 1918.

Ymddengys i'r teulu adael Iwerddon ar ôl Rhyfel Annibyniaeth Iwerddon. Ar ddiwedd y 1920au cofnodwyd bod ei frawd Robert yn byw ym Mayfair, Llundain ac aeth ymlaen i wasanaethu fel Capten yng Nghorfflu Gwasanaeth y Fyddin Frenhinol, gan wasanaethu am gyfnod yn Bombay. Symudodd ei dad i Epsom, Surrey rywbryd yn y 1930au.



# *Lance Corp. Wilfred Augustus Wheeler (1893–1915)*

**13036, Devonshire Rgt, 8th Bn.**

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Wilfred was born in Pontnewydd, Monmouthshire along with his many brothers and sisters. His parents, William, a blocklayer (underground) & Elizabeth brought the large family to the village and came to live in Ardwyn, Twyn Pandy, Pontrhydyfen. In the 1911 census, Wilfred is living with his nine siblings at this address and is recorded as working as a Haulage Engine Driver, Underground.

The Battle of Loos took place from 25th September to 8th October 1915 on the Western Front, France. It was the biggest British attack of 1915 and the first time that the British used poison gas. Much of the 8th Battalion was wiped out in September 1915 with casualties numbering 21 amongst officer ranks and 580 ordinary ranks. Wilfred is recorded as dying in Loos on 5th October 1915 aged 23 years. He is buried in St. Sever Cemetery, Rouen, France. The British Army suffered over 50,000 casualties and over 20,000 soldiers of Britain and the Commonwealth who fell in the battle and have no known grave. Rudyard Kipling's son Jack was one of them. They are commemorated on The Loos Memorial. Around 26,000 of the German casualties at this time were attributed to the Battle of Loos. The failures of the battle forced the resignation of Field Marshal Sir John French.

Wilfred's father William is named on his military records. The family continued to live in Twyn Pandy in 1921, but by 1926, the electoral rolls show that Eliza was widowed and living at 12 Twyn Pandy (Ardwyn) with her children.

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Ganwyd Wilfred ym Mhontnewydd, Sir Fynwy ynghyd â'i frodyr a'i chwiorydd niferus. Daeth ei rieni, William, gosodwr blociau (o dan ddaear) ac Elizabeth â'r teulu mawr i'r pentref a daethant i fyw yn Ardwyn, Twyn Pandy, Pontrhydyfen. Yng nghyfrifiad 1911, mae Wilfred yn byw gyda'i naw brawd a chwaer yn y cyfeiriad hwn ac mae wedi'i gofnodi fel Gyrrwr Injan Cludo Nwyddau, Tanddaearol.

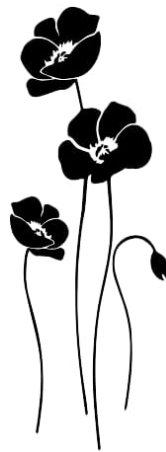
Digwyddodd Brwydr Loos o 25 Medi i 8 Hydref 1915 ar y Ffrynt Orllewinol, Ffrainc. Hwn oedd ymosodiad mwyaf Prydain ym 1915 a'r tro cyntaf i'r Prydeinwyr ddefnyddio nwy gwenwynig. Cafodd llawer o'r 8fed Bataliwn ei ddileu ym mis Medi 1915 gyda 21 wedi'u hanafu ymhlith rhengoedd swyddogion a 580 o blith y rhengoedd cyffredin. Cofnodir bod Wilfred wedi marw yn Loos ar 5 Hydref 1915 yn 23 oed. Mae wedi'i gladdu ym Mynwent St. Sever, Rouen, Ffrainc. Dioddefodd Byddin Prydain dros 50,000 o golledion, a thros 20,000 o filwyr Prydain a'r Gymanwlad a syrthiodd yn y frwydr ac nad oes ganddynt fedd hysbys. Roedd mab Rudyard Kipling, Jack, yn un ohonynt. Fe'u cofir ar Gofeb Loos. Priodolwyd tua 26,000 o'r colledion Almaenig ar yr adeg hon i Frwydr Loos. Gorfododd methiannau'r frwydr ymddiswyddiad y Cadlywydd Syr John French.

Enwir tad Wilfred, William, ar ei gofnodion milwrol. Roedd y teulu'n dal i fyw yn Twyn Pandy ym 1921, ond erbyn 1926, mae'r rholiau etholiadol yn dangos bod Eliza yn weddw ac yn byw yn 12 Twyn Pandy (Ardwyn) gyda'i phlant.

# *Faces of the Fallen*

Stories of Lives Lost

Biographies of the men who  
served in World War II  
1939-1945



## *Gunner Lewis Daniel Davies (1918–1942)*

**965606, Royal Artillery, 124 Field Rgt.**

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Lewis Daniel Davies birth was registered in Neath in 1918, however, we have little information about him except that his mother was Mary. His Commonwealth War Grave record states that he was also the nephew of Mr D Davies of Bryn. His military records state that he passed away at the age of 24 on the 28th of June 1942. His regiment was at this time based in North Africa. He is commemorated on the Alamein Memorial in Egypt. Almost twelve thousand names are memorialised here. June 1942 saw the battles of El Alamein and Tobruk taking place against Rommel's Panzer divisions.

Tobruk fell soon after June 21st only after the Gurkhas were ordered to stand down. Over 35,000 allied troops were captured at Tobruk. Diary excerpts from troops at that time illustrate the harsh conditions that they lived in whilst fighting, often with a lack of water, provisions and ammunition with the constant presence of sand flies. We do not have any further information about Lewis' family after the war.

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Cofrestrwyd genedigaeth Lewis Daniel Davies yng Nghastell Nedd ym 1918, ond ychydig iawn o wybodaeth amdano sydd gennym, ac eithrio am y ffaith mai Mary oedd enw ei fam. Mae cofnod y Commonwealth War Graves yn mynegi mai nai Mr. Bryn Davies o Fryn oedd ef. Mae ei gofnodion milwrol yn dangos fod ef wedi marw yn 24 blwydd oed ar Mehefin 28ain, 1942. Ar y pryd roedd ei gatrawd yng Ngogledd Affrica a fe goffeir ef ar Gofadail Alamein yn yr Aifft, lle cofnodir bron dueddeg mil o enwau.

Cymerodd brwydrau El Alamein a Tobruk lle yn fuan ar ôl Mehefin 21ain, yn erbyn rhanbarthau Panzer Rommel, gyda Tobruk yn syrthio ond ar ôl i'r Gurkhas derbyn yr orchymyn i 'sefyll i lawr'. Cafodd dros 35,000 o filwyr yr Allies eu dal yn Tobruk. Mae cofnodion dyddiadur cyfoesol yn disgrifio'r amodau caled yr oedd y milwyr yn eu dioddef tra yn ymladd, yn aml gyda phrinder dŵr, darpariaeth ac adnoddau saethu, a gyda phresenoldeb cyson clêr tywod. Nid oes gwybodaeth bellach gennym am Lewis nag am ei deulu.

## *Able Seaman Rees Howell (1913–1941)*

**C/ JX 249314. HMS President (SS Stonepool), Royal Navy**

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Rees was born in Bryn. In 1921, he lived in Meadow Row, Bryn with his parents Thomas David Howells (Miner) and Gwenllian (nee Roblin) as well as his two siblings. Gwenllian's brother, Thomas Roblin was also living with the family. Both of Rees's parents came from Cwmafan and his father had also served in the first World War. By 1939, Rees was living with his parents and his sister (Iris) at 13 Baldwin St, Bryn. Rees was working as a coal hewer.

In early 1941, he married Gladys May. His military records show that Rees joined the Royal Navy and served on SS Stonepool, a steam merchant ship.

In September 1942, it formed part of the convoy OB-17 which was carrying over 10,000 tons of coal and general cargo from Barry to St Vincent in the Caribbean. On September 11th, Stonepool was attacked by a German U boat (U-207), and sank south of Bantry Bay. Forty-two lives were lost including Rees. He was 27 years old. Rees is honoured on the Chatham Naval Memorial.

Seven of his crew members survived and were picked up HMCS Kenogami, a Canadian corvette. We do not have any further information about the family after the war.

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Ganwyd Rees yn y Bryn. Ym 1921, roedd yn byw yn Meadow Row, Bryn gyda'i rieni Thomas David Howells (Glöwr) a Gwenllian (née Roblin) yn ogystal â'i ddau frawd a chwaer. Roedd brawd Gwenllian, Thomas Roblin, hefyd yn byw gyda'r teulu. Roedd dau riant Rees yn dod o Gwmafan ac roedd ei dad hefyd wedi gwasanaethu yn y Rhyfel Byd Cyntaf. Erbyn 1939, roedd Rees yn byw gyda'i rieni a'i chwaer (Iris) yn 13 Baldwin St, Bryn. Roedd Rees yn gweithio fel cloddiwr glo.

Yn gynnar yn 1941, priododd â Gladys May. Mae ei gofnodion milwrol yn dangos bod Rees wedi ymuno â'r Llynges Frenhinol a gwasanaethu ar yr SS Stonepool, llong fasnach stêm.

Ym mis Medi 1942, roedd yn rhan o'r confoi OB-17 a oedd yn cludo dros 10,000 tonn o lo a chargo cyffredinol o'r Barri i St Vincent yn y Caribî. Ar Fedi'r 11eg, ymosodwyd ar y Stonepool gan long danfor Almaenig (U-207), a suddodd i'r de o Fae Bantry. Collwyd pedwar deg dau o fywydau gan gynnwys Rees. Roedd yn 27 oed. Anrhydeddir Rees ar Gofeb Lyngesol Chatham. Goroedd saith o aelodau'r criw a chawsant eu codi ar HMCS Kenogami, corvette o Ganada. Nid oes gennym unrhyw wybodaeth bellach am y teulu ar ôl y rhyfel.

## *A.B. Seaman Edgar Thomas Jones (1914–1942)*

**D/ JX 255118, HMS President III (San Emiliano). RN**

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Edgar was born in Upper Boat, near Pontypridd. His father John was from the Pontypridd area, but his mother Olwyn originally came from Cwmamman. In 1921, Edgar was living with his two younger sisters and parents in Baldwin Street, Bryn. John, a collier was locked out of the Bryn Navigation Colliery due to the ongoing miner's dispute. In the 1939 England and Wales Register, Edgar was working as a coal hewer and living with his younger sister Ceinwen and brother David in Brynteg Street Bryn. We aren't able to confirm where their parents were at this time. At the end of 1939, Edgar marries Elizabeth Hannah Davies.

Records show that Edgar was an able seaman on the British motor tanker the San Emiliano. In August 1942, the ship was part of a convoy (E-7) travelling from Curacao via Trinidad to Table Bay, Suez. It was transporting aviation fuel. In the early hours of the 9th, around 450 miles west of Tobago, a torpedo from U-155 struck the vessel igniting the fuel. The ship broke in two and sank in flames. Forty crew members were lost, including the master and six gunners. Edgar was one of them, he was 28. He is commemorated on the Plymouth Naval Memorial.

Eight crew members were picked up by the US Army transport. Two crew (apprentice Donald Owen Clarke and the chief radio officer, DW Dennis) were both posthumously awarded a George Cross for their outstanding bravery. We know from his war pension records that Elizabeth was living in Cwmafan after the war, but his brother lived in Baldwin Street for many years.

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Cafodd Edgar ei eni yn Upper Boat, yn ymyl Pontypridd. Daeth ei dad, John, o ardal Pontypridd, ond roedd ei fam, Olwyn, yn wreiddiol o Gwmamman. Ym 1921 roedd Edgar yn byw gyda'i ddwy chwaer iau a'i rieni yn Baldwin Street, Bryn. Cafodd John, a oedd yn löwr, ei gloi allan o Bryn Navigation Colliery oherwydd streic y glowyr. Yng Nghofrestr Lloegr a Chymru 1939, roedd Edgar yn gweithio fel Torwr Glo, ac yn byw gyda'i chwaer iau, Ceinwen, a'i frawd, David, yn Brynteg Street, Bryn. Ni fu yn bosibl cadarnhau lle oedd eu rhieni yr adeg hon. Ar ddiwedd 1939, priododd Edgar Elizabeth Hannah Davies.

Mae recordiau yn dangos bod Edgar yn 'Able Seaman' ar y llong olew Brydeinig San Emilio. Yn Awst 1942, roedd y llong yn rhan o gonfoi a oedd yn teithio o Curacao gan alw yn Trinidad, yn cludo tanwydd awyrennau; yn ystod oriau cynnar y 9fed, o gwmpas 450 milltir i'r gorllewin o Tobago, cafodd ei tharo gan dordido o'r U-155, ac aeth y tanwydd ar dân. Torrodd y llong yn ddau a suddodd mewn fflamau. Fe gollwyd ddeugain aelod o'r criw, gan gynnwys y meist'r a chech o'r gynnwyr – gydag Edgar yn un ohonynt. Bu yn 28 blwydd oed. Caiff ei goffáu ar y Plymouth Naval Memorial.

Achubwyd wyth aelod o'r criw gan 'U.S. Army Transport'. Dyfarnwyd y George Cross i ddau o'r criw ar ôl eu marwolaeth – Prentis Donald Owen Clarke a'r brif weithredydd radio, D.W. Dennis – am eu dewrder eithriadol. Fe wyddom o recordiau pensiwn rhyfel Edgar fod Elizabeth wedi byw yng Nghwmafan ar ôl y rhyfel, ond bywiodd ei frawd yn Baldwin Street, Bryn am sawl flwyddyn.

# *Sub. Lt. (A.) Thomas Ivor Reynolds (1921–1943)*

## **RNVR, HMS Jackdaw**

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Thomas Ivor was born in Cardiff in 1921. His father William was born in Toronto Canada and married Thomas' mother Annie Maud Cokeley in Cardiff in 1902. Thomas' oldest siblings were also born in Cardiff, but by 1911, the family were living in Bryngurnos Street, Bryn. William was working as a colliery electrician. In 1921, the family were still living in 42 Bryngurnos Street, and his eldest sister Alma was a milliner's apprentice in Station Road Port Talbot. The 1939 England & Wales Register shows that his elderly mother was widowed and still living in Bryn. His older siblings had largely left the Bryn area by this time. Thomas is not at this address either.

Records show that in the next few years that he moved around, working as a schoolmaster in Nottinghamshire and then volunteered for the Fleet Air Arm of the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve. His Commission and training took him to Canada.

He served at Royal Air Station Crail (HMS Jackdaw), Fife. On 24th June 1943 whilst flying a Supermarine Walrus, a single-engine amphibious biplane the aircraft is recorded as stalling and spun out of control and crashed into the ground on the approach to Dunino, Crail, Fife. Thomas did not survive his injuries, he was 21. He is buried in Goytre Cemetery and his obituary summarised his many interests and achievements. His mother passed away in 1958 and his many siblings appear to have moved across the UK.

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Ganwyd Thomas Ivor yng Nghaerdydd ym 1921. Ganwyd ei dad William yn Toronto, Canada, a phriododd â mam Thomas, Annie Maud Cokeley, yng Nghaerdydd ym 1902. Ganwyd brodyr a chwiorydd hynaf Thomas yng Nghaerdydd hefyd, ond erbyn 1911, roedd y teulu'n byw yn Stryd Bryngurnos, Bryn. Roedd William yn gweithio fel trydanwr mewn pwl glo. Ym 1921, roedd y teulu'n dal i fyw yn 42 Stryd Bryngurnos, ac roedd ei chwaer hynaf Alma yn brentis i hetiwyr yn Heol yr Orsaf, Port Talbot. Mae Cofrestr Cymru a Lloegr 1939 yn dangos bod ei fam oedrannus yn weddw ac yn dal i fyw yn Bryn. Roedd ei frodyr a chwiorydd hŷn wedi gadael ardal Bryn i raddau helaeth erbyn hyn. Nid yw Thomas yn y cyfeiriad hwn chwaith.

Mae cofnodion yn dangos iddo symud o gwmpas yn ystod yr ychydig flynyddoedd nesaf, gan weithio fel ysgolfeistr yn Swydd Nottingham ac yna gwirfoddoli i Adran Gwirfoddolwyr Wrth Gefn Llu Awyr y Llynges Frenhinol. Aeth ei Gomisiwn a'i hyfforddiant ag ef i Ganada.

Gwasanaethodd yng Ngorsaf Awyr Frenhinol Crail (HMS Jackdaw), Fife. Ar 24 Mehefin 1943, wrth hedfan Supermarine Walrus, awyren amffibiaidd un injan, cofnodwyd bod yr awyren wedi pallu, a throelli allan o reolaeth gan ddisgyn i'r ddaear wrth nesáu at Dunino, Crail, Fife. Ni oroesodd Thomas ei anafiadau, roedd yn 21 oed. Mae wedi'i gladdu ym Mynwent Goetre ac roedd ei ysgrif goffa yn crynhoi ei ddiddordebau a'i gyflawniadau niferus. Bu farw ei fam ym 1958 ac ymddengys bod ei frodyr a'i chwiorydd niferus wedi symud ar draws Prydain.

## *L Thomas*

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We have not been able to definitively trace an L. Thomas to Bryn.

However, we have been able to trace:

Sap. Lewis Thomas (1918 - 1940)

2068257, Royal Engineers died on 22nd May 1940, aged 18. Killed in Action / Died of wounds and is buried in Bodo, Norway.

His parents David and Annie, lived in Maesteg.

**\*If you have any further information whether this is, or isn't this gentleman please leave a note in the comment book**

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Nid yw wedi bod yn bosibl bod yn hollol sicr o hunaniaeth unrhyw L. Thomas, ond fe gawsom hyd i'r canlynol:

Sap. Lewis Thomas (1918-1940)

2068257 Royal Engineers – marwodd Mai 22ain 1940, yn 18 – lladdwyd wrth ymladd/Marwodd o'i glwyfau, a fe gladdwyd ef yn Bodo, Norwy.

Bywiodd ei rieni, David ac Annie, ym Maesteg.

**\*Os oes gennych wybodaeth sydd yn helpu profi os mai hyn yw'r person, a wnewch chi adael sylw yn ein llyfr sylwadau, os gwelwch yn dda.**

## *Sap. Clifford Wanklyn (1923–1945)*

**2073975, Royal Engineers, 79 Assault Sqn.**

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Clifford was born in Bryn, son of Price (a miner) and Elizabeth. Clifford's paternal family originally came from Herefordshire and had come to Cwmafan some decades earlier. By 1921, the family and Clifford's older siblings were living in 3 Penhyddwalod Cottages, Bryn. By 1939, we think that Elizabeth was a widow living with relatives in Brynteg Street, Bryn.

We believe that Clifford married a Maureen Russell in Port Talbot in 1941, who may have originated from Northern Ireland. The couple went on to have a daughter Brenda, who died at a young age.

The Royal Engineers 79 Assault Squadron was part of the 79th Armoured Division, which specialised in developing and using a modified armoured vehicle called "Hobart's Funnies". They were instrumental in supporting infantry during the final stages of the war in NW Europe. They cleared mines, deployed Bailey bridges and cleared obstacles for infantry. In February 1945, there were still pockets of heavy fighting. The 79th Armoured Division were preparing for the final advance into Germany. A

casualty list records Clifford as once believed missing as now killed in action on February 14th, 1945. He was 22 years old. He is buried in Jonkerbos War Cemetery, Nijmegen, Netherlands.

His Commonwealth War Graves record states that Maureen was living in Banbridge, Co. Down, Northern Ireland. Several of his siblings remained in the Port Talbot area.

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Ganwyd Clifford ym Mryn, yn fab i Price (glöwr) ac Elizabeth. Daeth teulu tad Clifford yn wreiddiol o Swydd Henffordd ac roeddent wedi dod i Gwmafan rai degawdau ynghynt. Erbyn 1921, roedd y teulu a brodyr a chwiorydd hŷn Clifford yn byw yn 3 Bwthyn Penhyddwalod, Bryn. Erbyn 1939, credwn fod Elizabeth yn weddw yn byw gyda pherthnasau yn Stryd Brynteg, Bryn.

Credwn fod Clifford wedi priodi â Maureen Russell, a allai fod wedi tarddu o Ogledd Iwerddon, ym Mhort Talbot ym 1941. Aeth y cwpl ymlaen i gael merch, Brenda, a fu farw yn ifanc.

Roedd Sgwadron Ymosod 79 y Peirianwyr Brenhinol yn rhan o'r 79fed Adran Arfog a oedd yn arbenigo mewn datblygu a defnyddio cerbyd arfog wedi'i addasu o'r enw "Hobart's Funnies." Roeddent yn allweddol wrth gefnogi milwyr traed yn ystod camau olaf y rhyfel yng Ngogledd-orllewin Ewrop. Eu gwaith oedd clirio bomiau tir, gosod pontydd Bailey a chlirio rwystrau i filwyr traed. Ym mis Chwefror 1945, roedd pocedi o ymladd trwm o hyd. Roedd yr 79fed Adran Arfog yn paratoi ar gyfer yr ymosodiad olaf ar yr Almaen. Mae rhestr y clwyfedig yn cofnodi y credwyd fod Clifford ar goll ar un adeg, ond oedd bellach wedi'i ladd mewn brwydr ar Chwefror 14eg, 1945. Roedd yn 22 oed. Mae wedi'i gladdu ym Mynwent Ryfel Jonkerbos, Nijmegen, yr Iseldiroedd.

Mae ei gofnod Beddau Rhyfel y Gymanwlad yn nodi bod Maureen yn byw yn Banbridge, Co. Down, Gogledd Iwerddon. Arhosodd nifer o'i frodyr a chwiorydd yn ardal Port Talbot.

## *Sgt. (Air Gunner) Ronald Wilks (1922–1943)*

**1417280, RAF Volunteer Reserve, 75th Sqdn. Bomber Command**

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Ronald Wilks was born in Bryn. His father Wilfred Thomas originally came from Stourbridge, Worcestershire and his mother Jessie from Alnwick, Northumberland. Wilfred had served in the first world war in the Machine Gun Corps and moved to Bryn soon after being demobbed. It is not known how his parents had met. In 1921, the young family were living in 16 Baldwin Street with Ronald's oldest brother, Wilfred was out of work due to the ongoing miners' strike. He is recorded as working as a colliery boiler stoker.

RAF records show that Ronald flew in multiple missions across France and Germany in the summer of 1943. On 23rd September 1943, his squadron was flying to Mannheim on a bombing raid. His plane, a Short Stirling, a British four-engine heavy bomber crashed at Dirmstein, 4 miles east of Grunstadt. All the crew were lost and comprised of Canadian, New Zealand and UK personnel. Ronald was 21. He is buried in Rheinberg War Cemetery, His family continued to live in Bryn after the war.

**Addendum:** Initially, the crash site of the plane was unknown. But in 1995, military archaeologist detectives discovered the crash site of the aircraft. The family were

contacted following the identification of Ronald's remains. In 1996, a full military funeral took place and his sister and family travelled to Germany for the service. Ronald is buried in Rheinberg War Cemetery, Germany alongside the members of his crew.

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Fe ganwyd Ronald Wilks ym Mryn. Daeth ei dad, Wilfred Thomas, yn wreiddiol o Stourbridge, Worcestershire, a'i fam, Jessie, o Alnwick, Northumberland. Bu Wilfred yn filwr yn ystod y Rhyfel Byd Cyntaf gyda'r Machine Gun Corps, a symudodd i Fryn yn fuan ar ôl iddo adael y fyddin. Nid yw yn hysbys sut cwrddodd rhieni Ronald. Ym 1921 roedd y teulu ifanc yn byw yn 16, Baldwin Street, gyda brawd hynaf, Ronald, â Wilfred yn ddi-waith oherwydd parhad Streic y Glowyr. Fe gofnodir Ronald fel Taniwr Bwyler Pwll Glo.

Mae cofnodion yr RAF yn dangos bod Ronald wedi cwblhau sawl cyrch dros Ffrainc a'r Almaen yn ystod haf 1943. Ar Medi 23ain, 1943, hedfanodd ei sgwadron i Mannheim ar gyrch bomio; cwmpodd ei awyren – sef Short Stirling, awyren fomio Prydeinig pedwar-peiriant – pedair milltir i'r dwyrain o Gundstadt a marwodd y criw i gyd – gan gynnwys awyrennwyr o Ganada, Seland Newydd a'r D.U.. Bu Ronald yn 21 blwydd oed. Fe gladdwyd ef ym Mynwent Rhyfel Rheinberg. Parhaodd ei deulu i fyw ym Mryn ar ôl y rhyfel.

## *Pte. Eurwen David (1916–1944)*

**7516553, Royal Army Medical Corps**

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Eurwen was born in July 1916, Oakwood, Pontrhydyfen. He lived with his parents (John and Jane) and siblings in 18 Penhydd St, although the family initially lived in Oakwood Row. In the 1911 census, John was working as an Insurance Agen. Boarding with the family at that time was a blind basket maker, David Griffiths.

Both of Eurwen's parents came from Pontrhydyfen, the David family were farmers in Penrhysfach Farm and his maternal side of the family lived in Twynypandy. In 1921 and in the 1939 register Eurwyn's family were still living in Penhydd St. His sister Gwyneth is working as a schoolteacher, however, Eurwyn was not at the family home by 1939.

Records show that he joined the Royal Army Medical Corps (RAMC), but we have very little information about his military service. In December 1943, the port of Bari, Italy was crowded with 30 Allied ships. It was to be the scene of a little-known allied disaster, which is often called the 'second Pearl Harbour,' with the sinking of 17 ships.

An American ship, The John Harvey, had secretly transported bombs containing mustard gas into the harbour and was waiting to dock. On December 2nd, an attack by German Luftwaffe, bombed the port and the John Harvey was hit. The explosion released the gas which coated many allied troops.

Although Bari was the site of several Allied military hospitals and related support facilities. The RAMC were left to deal with the devastating aftermath of this bombing. Medical staff began receiving many of the gas victims unaware of what they were dealing with poison gas. Many were officially listed as suffering from 'burns.'

It is thought that many died because of this lack of knowledge, including many innocent civilians. There were over 1,000 military and merchant marine casualties, with 628 suffering from mustard gas exposure. Wartime reporting restrictions resulted in the British records being censored on Churchill's instructions. No reference was made to deaths being caused by mustard gas exposure.

The port was closed for three weeks, and the Bari raid is the only poison gas incident associated with WW2.

It is not known if Eurwyn was caught up directly in these events. He is recorded as passing away on February 10th, 1944, aged 28. He is buried in Bari War Cemetery, Italy. His family continued to live in Oakwood after the Second World War. His father John passed away in December 1952 and his widow Jane passes away the following year. Their estates were managed by their daughter Gwyneth who by this time was married.

Cafodd Eurwen ei eni yn ystod Gorffennaf, 1916 yn Oakwood. Bywiodd gyda'i rieni, John a Jane a'u plant eraill yn 18, Penhydd Street, er i'r teulu fyw yn gyntaf yn Oakwood Row. Yng Nghyfrifiad 1911 bu John yn gweithio fel Asiant Yswiriant, ac yr amser yna yn lletya gyda nhw oedd gwneuthurwr basgedi dall, David Griffiths. Daeth rhieni Eurwen o Bontrhydyfen. Ffermwyr ar Ffarm Penrhysfach oedd y teulu David, gydag ochr y teulu mam Eurwen yn byw yn Nhwyn y Pandy.

Ym 1921 a hefyd yng Nghofrestr 1939 roedd teulu Eurwyn yn dal i fyw yn Stryd Penhydd, gyda'i chwaer, Gwyneth, yn gweithio fel athrawes, ond erbyn 1939 nid oedd Eurwyn yn byw yn y cartref teuluol. Mae recordiau yn dangos ei fod wedi ymuno â'r Royal Army Medical Corps, ond ychydig iawn o wybodaeth sydd gennym am ei yrfa milwrol.

Ym mis Rhagfyr, 1943, bu porthladd Bari, yr Eidal, yn llawn â thorf o 30 o longau yr Allies. Bu'r lleoliad ar gyfer trychineb bron yn anhysbys a enwir yn aml 'yr ail Pearl Harbour', gyda 17 o longau yn cael eu suddo. Yn gyfrinachol, roedd llong Americanaidd, The John Harvey, wedi cludo mewn i'r harbwr bomiau a oedd yn cynnwys nwy mwstard. Ar Ragfyr 2il ymosododd y Luftwaffe Almaeneg ar y porthladd a chafodd y John Harvey ei daro, a rhyddhaodd y ffrwydrad y nwy a ledaenodd ar draws llawer o filwyr. Er i Bari fod safle sawl ysbyty milwrol, fe gadawyd i'r RAMC ddelio ag ôl- effaith dinistriol y bomio hwn. Derbynodd y staff meddygol dioddefwyr y nwy heb wybod bod nhw yn delio ag effeithiau nwy gwenwynol, gyda llawer yn cael eu cofnodi yn swyddogol fel dioddef o 'losgiadau', a fe gredir bod nifer mawr wedi marw oherwydd y diffyg gwybodaeth hwn – gan gynnwys llawer o sifiliaid diniwed. Bu dros 1,000 o anafiadau milwrol a Morlu Masnachol, gyda 628 yn dioddef o effeithiau nwy mwstard. Cafodd recordiau Prydeinig eu sensro ar orchymyn Churchill ar sail cyfyngiadau amser rhyfel ar y cyfryngau. Cafodd y porthladd ei gau am dair wythnos, ac yr unig ddigwyddiad nwy gwenwynol sydd yn gysylltiedig â'r Ail Ryfel Byd yw trychineb Bari.

Nid yw yn hysbys os oedd Eurwen yn rhan o'r digwyddiadau hyn, ond fe gofnodir ef yn marw ar Chwefror 10fed, 1944, yn 28 blwydd oed.. Fe gladdwyd ef ym Mynwent Rhyfel Bari, yr Eidal. Ar ôl y rhyfel, parhaodd ei deulu i fyw yn Oakwood; bu farw ei dad, John, ym 1952, a'i weddw, Jane, y flwyddyn nesaf, gyda Gwyneth, a oedd yn briod erbyn yr amser hwn, yn rheoli eu hystadau.

## *Bmb. Isaac John Jenkins (1913–1942)*

**1605211, 3HAA Regt., Royal Horse Artillery**

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Isaac John Jenkins was born in Pontrhydyfen. He lived with his five older sisters, and parents. He was the only son of David and Rachel. His father was a miner, and the family are registered in census and electoral rolls at number 2 and number 16 Lewis St. By 1939, the England and Wales register showed that Rachel was now widowed and was living with Isaac and his sister Ethel May. He was working as a grocer's shop assistant, and we know drove the delivery van for Gethin's shop which was situated in Lewis Street. This business was owned by his extended family.

In 1941, Isaac marries his wife, Beryl, but within a month he was to leave his bride to travel abroad as part of his military service. The Heavy Anti-Aircraft Artillery (HAA) battalions had been set up to combat air raids all over the UK, including Wales. Isaac's regiment was posted to Kranji Army Barracks, Singapore. Kranji was built in the 1930s and in WW2 was used as an ammunition and storage depot.

Japanese forces attacked Singapore in February 1942. The barracks was captured, and a prisoner of war camp was set up. Conditions in Japanese camps were appalling and thousands of UK and Commonwealth personnel died, through forced labour, starvation and disease during WW2. Isaac passed away on April 24th, 1942, weeks after Singapore fell. He is buried in Kranji War Cemetery, he was 29. Over 24,000 names appear on the memorial at Kranji as many of the bodies of these men were never recovered. Kranji was eventually demolished.

After the war, Isaac's widow went on to remarry and lived in Clyne. The Jenkins family continued to live in Lewis St and several relatives still live in the village today.

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Cafodd Isaac John Jenkins ei eni ym Mhontrhydyfen, lle bywiodd gyda'i bump chwaer hŷn a'u rhieni, yr unig fab i David a Rachel. Glöwr oedd ei dad, a mewn Cyfrifiadau a Chofrestrau Etholiadol fe gofrestrir y teulu yn byw yn 2 ac 16, Lewis Street. Erbyn 1939 mae Cofrestr Lloegr a Chymru yn dangos Rachel nawr yn weddw ac yn byw gydag Isaac a'i chwaer, Ethel May. Roedd Isaac yn gweithio fel cynorthwywr siop groser a fe wyddom yr oedd yn yrrwr fan danfoniadau ar gyfer siop Gethin a oedd yn Lewis Street. Ei deulu estynedig oedd yn berchen ar y siop.

Ym 1941 priododd Isaac ei wraig, Beryl, ond o fewn mis gadawodd ei briodferch i deithio tramor fel rhan o'i wasanaeth milwrol. Fe sefydlwyd bataliwnau'r Heavy Anti-Aircraft Artillery (HAA) i ymladd yn erbyn cyrchoedd awyr ar draws y D.U., gan gynnwys Cymru. Anfonwyd catrawd Isaac i Kranji Army Barracks, Singapore. Roedd Kranji wedi cael ei adeiladu yn y 1930au, ac yn ystod yr Ail Ryfel Byd fe ddefnyddiwyd ef fel ystorfa adnoddau saethu a chyflenwadau cyffredinol.

Ymosododd lluoedd Japan ar Singapore ym mis Chwefror, 1942. Cafodd y barics ei gipio a sefydlwyd gwersyll carcharorion rhyfel. Bu amodau yn y gwersylloedd Japaniaid yn erchyll, ac yn ystod yr Ail Ryfel Byd marwodd miloedd o filwyr y D.U. a'r Gymanwlad o lafur gorfodol, newyn a chlefydau. Marwodd Isaac ar Ebrill 24ain, 1942, rai wythnosau ar ôl i Singapore ddisgyn, a fe gladdwyd ef ym Mynwent Rhyfel Kranji. Bu yn 29 blwydd oed. Mae dros 24,000 o enwau ar y gofeb yn Kranji, gyda llawer o gyrff y dynion hyn heb eu canfod erioed. Yn y pen draw cafodd Kranji ei ddymchwel.

Ar ôl y rhyfel ail-briododd gweddw Isaac a bywiodd yng Nghyne. Parhaodd y teulu Jenkins i fyw yn Lewis Street, a mae sawl perthnas yn dal i fyw yn y pentref.

## *AB. William Leonard Margetson (1924–1943)*

**D/JX288991, HMS Avondale, Royal Navy**

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William lived at Tynywaun Cottages, near Level Crossing House with his father Arthur (a collier), his mother Annie and his brothers. The Margetson family originally came from Norfolk\*. His father Arthur had served as a driver in the Royal Field Artillery in WW1. William's mother Annie Naish was born in New York City. It appears that Annie's parents had travelled and lived in New York in the mid-1890s. However, they returned to Efail Fach at some point where William's grandparents (the Barwicks) had once lived.

In 1939, The England and Wales Register records the family still living in Tynywaun, but William is not at this address. We do not have many details about his military service, but we know that he sailed on HMS Avon Vale, an escort destroyer.

In January 1943, the ship formed part of the 59th Destroyer Division in the Western Mediterranean, escorting several destroyers at Gibraltar. On 29th January, HMS Avon Vale suffered major damage after she was hit by an aerial torpedo destroying the ship's bow structure. Over 30 crew members lost their lives that day and William was one of them, he was 19. He is commemorated on the Plymouth Naval Memorial. William's parents continued to live at Tynywaun Cottage after the war. Some of his brothers also lived in the village (The Uplands and Efail Fach).

\*The Margetson family originally came from Tivetshall, Norfolk and William's father Arthur is a cousin of Florence Margaret Margetson who married Merchant Seaman Hassan Alli who is also commemorated on the war memorial.

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Bywiodd William yn Tynywaun Cottages, yn ymyl Level Crossing House, gyda'i dad, Arthur (glöwr), ei fam, Annie, a'i frodyr. Daeth y teulu Margetson yn wreiddiol o Norfolk \*. Yn ystod y Rhyfel Byd Cyntaf roedd ei dad yn yrrwr yn y Royal Field Artillery. Cafodd mam William, Annie Naish, ei geni yn Efrog Newydd; mae'n ymddangos bod rhieni Annie wedi teithio o Gymru i fyw yn Efrog Newydd yn y 1880au canol, ond wedi dychwelyd i Efail Fach rhywbryd, y lle roedd tad-cu a mam-gu William (y Barwicks) wedi byw ar ryw adeg.

Mae Cofrestr Lloegr a Chymru 1939 yn recordio'r teulu yn dal i fyw yn Nhynywaun, ond mae'n ymddangos nad oedd William yn byw yma. Ni does gennym fanylion am ei yrfa filwrol, ond fe wyddom ei fod wedi bod yn aelod o griw HMS Avon Vale, distrywlong hebrwng.

Yn Ionawr 1943, roedd y llong yn rhan o 59ain Destroyer Division yng Ngorllewin Y Môr Canoldir, yn hebrwng sawl ddistrywlong yn Gibraltar. Ar Ionawr 29ain dioddefodd HMS Avon Vale ddifrod mawr ar ôl iddi gael ei tharo gan dorpido awyrol a ddinistriodd strwythur blaen y llong. Marwodd dros 30 aelod o'r criw, â William yn un ohonynt. Bu yn 19 blwydd oed. Mae'n cael ei goffáu ar y Plymouth Naval Memorial. Parhaodd rhieni William i fyw yn Tynywaun Cottages ar ôl y rhyfel, a bywiodd rhai o'i frodyr yn y pentref (The Uplands ac Efail Fach).

\*Daeth y teulu Margetson yn wreiddiol o Tivetshall, Norfolk, a roedd tad William, Arthur, yn gefnder i Florence Margetson a briododd Merchant Seaman Hassan Alli, sydd hefyd yn cael ei goffáu ar ein cofeb rhyfel.

# *Sgt. William Roy Pope, (1921-1940)*

**966654, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, 149 Sqdn**

William Roy was born in Pontrhydyfen. In the 1921 census his parents (William Aaron and Olive) are recorded as living with his paternal grandparents at Rosewood, Efail fach. The Pope family originally came from King's Nympton, Devon, whilst Olive's family had moved to Oakwood Row by 1911. Both families were working as Coal Miner Hewers in local mines prior to the outbreak of war. By 1939, the family were living in Cerriglwydon, William Roy's father was an ARP (Air Raid Precautions) Warden, his brother was working as a shop assistant. William Roy joined the RAF as a wireless operator.

On the night of 18th September 1940, his squadron took off for a nighttime bombing raid on Le Havre. His plane and flight crew were lost and the body of William Roy was washed up on shore. He was 19 years old. He is buried at Houlgate (Beuzeval) Communal Cemetery, Calvados, France. His family continued to live in Cerriglwydon after the war

Ganwyd William Roy ym Mhontrhydyfen. Yng nghyfrifiad 1921 cofnodwyd bod ei rieni (William Aaron ac Olive) yn byw gyda'i fam-gu a thad-cu ar ochr ei dad yn Rosewood, Efail-fach. Daeth teulu Pope yn wreiddiol o King's Nympton, Dyfnaint, tra bod teulu Olive wedi symud i Oakwood Row erbyn 1911. Roedd y ddau deulu'n gweithio fel cloddwyr glo mewn pyllau glo lleol cyn dechrau'r rhyfel. Erbyn 1939, roedd y teulu'n byw yng Ngherriglwydon, roedd tad William Roy yn Warden ARP (Rhagofalon Cyrch Awyr), roedd ei frawd yn gweithio fel cynorthwydd siop. Ymunodd William Roy â'r RAF fel gweithredwr radio.

Ar noson 18 Medi 1940, hedfanodd ei sgwadron ar gyrch bomio hwyrol ar Le Havre. Collwyd ei awyren a'i griw hedfan a chafodd corff William Roy ei olchi i'r lan. Roedd yn 19 oed. Mae wedi'i gladdu ym Mynwent Gymunedol Houlgate (Beuzeval), Calvados, Ffrainc. Parhaodd ei deulu i fyw yng Ngherriglwydon ar ôl y rhyfel.

**Graves Registration Report Form.**

COUNTRY: FRANCE  
 REPORT No.:  
 SCHEDULE No.: 1 only

PLACE OF BURIAL: HOULGATE (BEUZEVAL) COMMUNAL CEMETERY

Land belongs to

Certified complete and correct.

The following are buried here :-

Signature: *[Signature]* Date: 28 MAY 1951  
 Records Dept. - France

P.R.G. No.	No. and Rank	Initials, Name and Honours	Unit	Date of Death	For works use
10. 1	R.172270 Sgt (A/G)	H. CLEMENT	207 Sqdn R.O.A.F.	16.8.43	C.H
10. 2	1397951 Sgt (A/B)	J.S. WHITE	207 Sqdn R.O.A.F.	16.8.43	C.H
10. 3	1035586 Sgt (W.O.B./A.G)	J. KIRSMAN	207 Sqdn R.O.A.F.	16.8.43	C.H
10. 4	1586239 Sgt (A/G)	R.W. WILCOXSON	207 Sqdn R.O.A.F.	16.8.43	C.H
10. 5	155212 E/O (Pilot)	R.G. FAROEY	207 Sqdn R.O.A.F.	16.8.43	C.H
10. 6	1212445 Sgt (P/Sng.)	J.G. CUNNINGHAM	207 Sqdn R.O.A.F.	16.8.43	C.H
10. 7		VACANT			
10. 8	E/OX.396223 O/Smm	J. OWEN (G.M.)	RN. H.M.M.T.B. 671	24.4.44	C.H
10. 9	FO/L.109093 Op1	G.F. MILNE	R.M.	3.8.44	C.H
10. 10		UNKNOWN BRITISH SOLDIER			C.H
10. 11		UNKNOWN BRITISH SOLDIER			C.H
10. 12	5568629 Spr	W. GRACE	R.M.	7.6.44	C.H
<b>Buried near this spot.</b>					
10. 13 Special Mem.	966654 Sgt (W.O.B./A.G)	W.R. POPE	149 Sqdn R.O.A.F.	18.9.40	

*write in Part 10, Grave 1/16*

## *Pte. David William Rosser (1918–1944)*

**3810543, Essex Regiment, 4th Bn.**

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David William Rosser was born in Oakwood and lived with his parents David and Ann, and his older siblings in 18 Oakwood Row. The Rosser family has lived in the village since the 1840's. The family are recorded at several addresses in the village, including Station Road, Pontrhydyfen in the 1911 census and then in Oakwood in 1921. Many of the Rosser men worked in local coal mines and David was recorded in the 1939 register still living in Oakwood Row working underground as a haulage driver. He was living with his widowed mother and sister Olwen.

David enlisted in 1941 and served in the infantry of the Essex Regiment, which had fought in Italy for many months including at Monte Cassino. In the autumn of 1944, David's regiment joined allied forces who were fighting to gain territory and break through the heavily fortified Gothic Line in the Apennine Mountains. Much of these defences had been built by slave labour. Appalling weather made progress difficult and tank divisions were sent to break through the line. The Battle of Coriano Ridge took its toll on both sides. David passed away on 7th October 1944 and is buried in the Coriano Ridge

Cemetery. The family continue to this day to live in the village. David's grave was visited by his sister; we would like to thank the family for providing a copy of a photograph which captures this emotional moment.

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Ganwyd David William Rosser yn Oakwood ac roedd yn byw gyda'i rieni David ac Ann, a'i frodyr a chwiorydd hŷn yn 18 Oakwood Row. Bu'r teulu Rosser yn byw yn y pentref ers y 1840au. Mae'r teulu wedi'u cofnodi mewn sawl cyfeiriad yn y pentref, gan gynnwys Station Road, Pontrhydyfen yng nghyfrifiad 1911 ac yna yn Oakwood ym 1921. Roedd llawer o ddynion y teulu Rosser yn gweithio mewn pyllau glo lleol a chofnodwyd David yng nghofrestr 1939 yn dal i fyw yn Oakwood Row ac yn gweithio o dan y ddaear fel gyrrwr cludo nwyddau. Roedd yn byw gyda'i fam weddw a'i chwaer Olwen.

Ymunodd David ym 1941 a gwasanaethodd fel troedfilwr yng Nghatrawd Essex, a oedd wedi ymladd yn yr Eidal am fisoedd lawer gan gynnwys ym Monte Cassino. Yn hydref 1944, ymunodd catrawd David â lluoedd y cynghreiriaid a oedd yn ymladd i ennill tiriogaeth a thorri trwy'r Llinell Gothig gaerog iawn ym Mynyddoedd yr Apennine. Roedd llawer o'r amddiffynfeydd hyn wedi'u hadeiladu gan lafur caethweision. Oherwydd tywydd ofnadwy, roedd cynnydd yn anodd ac anfonwyd adrannau tanciau i dorri trwy'r llinell. Cymerodd Brwydr Cefn Coriano ei doll ar y ddwy ochr. Bu farw David ar 7 Hydref 1944 ac mae wedi'i gladdu ym Mynwent Cefn Coriano. Mae'r teulu'n parhau i fyw yn y pentref hyd heddiw. Ymwelodd chwaer David â'i fedd; hoffem ddiolch i'r teulu am ddarparu copi o ffotograff sy'n dal yr eiliad emosiynol hon.

## *Sap. Brinley Clifford Thomas (1908–1940)*

### **1927008, Roy Engineers, 154 Rly. Operating Convoy**

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Brinley Clifford Thomas was probably born in 1908, oldest child to Matthew and Sinah Ann. He had two younger siblings, and the family lived with Sinah's extended family in Somerset Place, Cwmafan. Census records show that his father Matthew worked in the Tin works as a Furnaceman and as a Millman. In the 1921 census, the family lived in Church Square Cwmafan. By 1926, the electoral roll showed that Brinley was living in Meadow Street, but not living with the family. In 1938, he married Doris May Davies. We have not confirmed where the couple were living in 1939. But his parents were living in 16 Depot Road, Cwmafan. By 1940, Brinley had joined the Royal Engineers, forming part of the British Expeditionary Force (BEF). Two weeks after the evacuation from Dunkirk, thousands of the remaining troops amassed in western France.

Operation Aerial was put into place to evacuate allied military forces, RAF personnel and civilians from western French ports. Brinley found himself on the RMS Lancastria, a British ocean liner requisitioned by the UK Government. The ship was waiting for an escort back to the UK when it was attacked by the Luftwaffe in the Loire estuary off the port of St Nazaire. It sunk within 15 -20 minutes. Due to overloading, thousands of lives were lost during the sinking, making it the greatest loss of life in history. Estimates range from 3,500 upward to 7,000 lives lost. Churchill served notice to suppress this information, and survivors taken aboard other UK and Allied evacuation vessels were told never to speak of the events. Almost 2,000 bodies were recovered. Brinley is recorded on the War Graves Commission as being 42 years old, but census records indicate that he was 32. He is buried in the Prefailles Communal Cemetery. Doris May is recorded as living in Oakwood after the war.

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Mae'n debyg bod Brinley Clifford Thomas wedi cael ei eni ym 1908, yn blentyn hynaf Matthew a Sinah Ann, a oedd hefyd â dau blentyn iau, gyda'r teulu yn byw efo teulu estynedig Sinah yn Somerset Place, Cwmafan. Mae recordiau cyfrifiad (census) yn dangos bod ei dad, Matthew, yn gweithio yn y gwaith alcam fel Dyn Ffwrnais a hefyd fel llaethwr. Mae cyfrifiad 1921 yn dangos y teulu yn byw yn Church Square, Cwmafan. Erbyn 1926 mae'r Cofrestr Etholiadol yn dangos Brinley yn byw yn Meadow Street, ond nid gyda'r teulu. Ym 1938 fe briododd Doris May Davies; nid yw yn hysbys lle roedd y cwpl yn byw ym 1939, ond roedd ei rieni yn byw yn 16, Depot Road, Cwmafan.

Erbyn 1940 roedd Brinley wedi ymuno â'r Peirianwyr Brenhinol (Royal Engineers), a oedd yn ran o'r B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force). Pythefnos ar ôl ymgiliad Dunkirk, tyrodd yng Ngogledd Ffrainc miloedd o filwyr a oedd dal tramor, a fe drefnwyd 'Operation Aerial' i achub lluoedd milwrol yr 'Allies', aelodau'r RAF a dinasyddion o borthladdoedd Gorllewin Ffrainc.

Bu Brinley ar HMS Lancastria, teithlong Brydeinig a atafaelwyd gan lywodraeth y D.U.. Tra i'r llong ddisgwyl yn aber y Loire, y tu allan i borthladd Saint Nazaire, i gael ei hebrwng yn ôl i'r U.D., ymosododd y Luftwaffe; suddodd y llong o fewn 20 munud, ac oherwydd gorlwytho marwodd miloedd. Mae amcangyfrifon yn amrywio rhwng 3,500 a 7,000 o farwolaethau. Cyhoeddodd Churchill orchymyn i atal y wybodaeth hon, a dywedwyd wrth oroeswyr i beidio byth sôn am y digwyddiad.

# *AB. Ellis Gwyn Thomas (1924–1945)*

**D/JX 559050 HMS Lapwing, Royal Navy**



Ellis Gwyn was born in Pontrhydyfen, the son of Edwin and Margaret Thomas who originally came from Rock Row, Pwlllyglaw. The family lived in 15 Penhydd St, Oakwood with their children. Edwin worked as a Coal Hewer. On the 1939 England and Wales Register, Ellis is recorded as a student. At some point he enlists and joins the navy serving on HMS Lapwing, a Black Swan-class sloop which was launched in 1943.

On March 20th 1945, Lapwing was escorting the Russian convoy JW 65 when it was torpedoed by a German submarine U-968 north of Murmansk. Hit amidships, she sank within 20 minutes with the loss of 158 lives. 61 men were rescued. Ellis is recorded as being lost overboard, he was 21 years old. Ellis is commemorated on the Plymouth Naval Memorial. The family continued to live in the family home and his brother Dewi is recorded on the electoral rolls in the 1960s.

Cafodd Ellis Gwyn ei eni ym Mhontrhydyfen, yn fab i Edwin a Margaret Thomas, a oedd yn wreiddiol o Rock Row, Pwlllyglaw. Trigodd y teulu yn 15, Penhydd Street, Oakwood gyda'u plant. Torrwr Glo oedd Edwin. Ar Gofrestr Lloegr a Chymru 1939 fe nodir Ellis fel 'myfyriwr'. Ar ryw adeg ymunodd Ellis â'r llynges, yn aelod o griw HMS Lapwing, slŵp dosbarth Alarch Ddu (Black Swan) a'i lanswyd ym 1943.

Ar Fawrth 20fed, 1945, tra yn hebrwng y Cydymaith Rwsieg (Russian Convoy), i'r gogledd o Murmansk cafodd y Lapwing ei churo gan dorpido o'r llong danfor U-968. Tarodd y torpido yng nghanol y llong a fe suddodd o fewn 20 munud, gyda cholledd o 158 bywyd. Cofnodwyd Ellis fel 'Lost Overboard'. Bu'n 21 blwydd oed. Fe goffir Ellis ar y Plymouth Naval Monument.

Parhaodd y teulu i fyw yn y cartref teuluol, a fe nodir ei frawd, Dewi, ar Restrau Etholiadol y 1960au.



## *Pte. David Douglas Callaghan (1923–1943)*

**4206512, The Parachute Regiment Army Air Corps (ACC), 1st Bn**

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David was born in Glyncorwg, son of Reuben and Morfydd. Reuben was working as a coal hewer in the 1939 England and Wales Register, whilst David is recorded as colliery surface worker, he was 16.

Operation Torch was the name given to the Allied Invasion of French North Africa in November 1942 and was the first time that the US and UK forces had worked on an invasion plan together. If successful, it would enable the Allies to clear the Mediterranean and move via Sicily and through Italy.

The Parachute Regiment was part of the British 1st Airborne Division based in Tunisia, North Africa. Code breakers at Bletchley Park were able to warn General Montgomery of Rommel's plans to attack Allied Forces. In March 1943, the 1st Battalion was committed to fighting in an infantry role in the Tamara Valley. Supported by artillery and aircraft, the 1st Bn, were able to hold the line against a major German & Italian offensive in bitter winter conditions. David is recorded as being killed in action of 8th March

1943. He was 20 years old. He is commemorated on the Medjez-El-Bab Memorial, Tunisia. Hundreds of enemy soldiers were captured, and the operation was successful.

David's family came to live in Pontrhydyfen in the 1950s and several relatives still live in Tonmawr. He is memorialised on his mother's headstone in Jerusalem cemetery.

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Ganwyd David yng Nglyncorwg, yn fab i Reuben a Morfydd. Roedd Reuben yn gweithio fel torwr glo yng Nghofrestr Cymru a Lloegr 1939, tra bod David wedi'i gofnodi fel gweithiwr wyneb glofa, roedd yn 16 oed.

Ymgyrch Torch oedd yr enw a roddwyd i Ymosodiad y Cynghreiriaid ar Ogledd Affrica Ffrengig ym mis Tachwedd 1942 a dyma'r tro cyntaf i luoedd yr Unol Daleithiau a'r DU weithio ar gynllun goresgyniad gyda'i gilydd. Os byddai'n llwyddiannus, byddai'n galluogi'r Cynghreiriaid i glirio Môr y Canoldir a symud trwy Sisili a thrwy'r Eidal.

Roedd Catrawd y Parasiwt yn rhan o Adran 1af Airborne Prydain a oedd wedi'i lleoli yn Nhiwnisia, Gogledd Affrica. Llwyddodd torwyr codau ym Mharc Bletchley i rybuddio'r Cadfridog Montgomery am gynlluniau Rommel i ymosod ar Luoedd y Cynghreiriaid. Ym mis Mawrth 1943, ymrwymodd y Bataliwn 1af i ymladd mewn rôl troedfilwyr yn Nyffryn Tamara. Gyda chefnogaeth magnelau ac awyrennau, llwyddodd y Bataliwn 1af i ddal y llinell yn erbyn ymosodiad mawr gan yr Almaen a'r Eidal mewn amodau gaeafol chwerw.

Cofnodir bod David wedi'i ladd mewn brwydr ar 8 Mawrth 1943. Roedd yn 20 oed. Mae wedi'i goffáu ar Gofeb Medjez-El-Bab, Tiwnisia. Cafodd cannoedd o filwyr y gelyn eu dal, ac roedd yr ymgyrch yn llwyddiannus.

## *Pte. William Joseph Fielding (1912–1941)*

**397856, Welch Rgt, 18th Bn**

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William Joseph was born in Pontrhydyfen in 1912, the youngest child of Michael Fielding (collier) and Elizabeth Reynolds. William's paternal family came from Abergavenny, and he is second cousin of Thomas Fielding who is commemorated on this memorial from WW1. Some of William's eldest siblings were born in Merthyr and his parents came to Pontrhydyfen in the late 1900s.

By the 1921 census, the family lived in 'The Huts' Pontrhydyfen, William was an invalid by this time. Only his teenage brother is working to support the family. We think that Michael returned to Merthyr where he died in 1936. In 1939, William is recorded as living with his older brother Thomas, his sister Emma and her family in Hafod Street, Port Talbot. He was working at the Steel works as a labourer. We have not been able to definitively trace his mother on this register. But his oldest brother Michael is living in Cerrigllwydon.

William's military record states that he died in Bridgend on 4th January 1941 aged 29. We do not have any further information, but William has a Commonwealth War Grave in Macpelah Cemetery, Pontrhydyfen. His siblings continued to live in the village as well as Port Talbot.

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Ganwyd William Joseph ym Mhontrhydyfen ym 1912, plentyn ieuengaf Michael Fielding (glowr) ac Elizabeth Reynolds. Daeth teulu tadol William o'r Fenni, ac mae'n ail gefnder i Thomas Fielding sy'n cael ei goffáu ar y gofeb hon o'r Rhyfel Byd Cyntaf. Ganwyd rhai o frodyr a chworydd hynaf William ym Merthyr a daeth ei rieni i Bontrhydyfen ddiwedd y 1900au.

Erbyn cyfrifiad 1921, roedd y teulu'n byw yn 'The Huts' Pontrhydyfen, roedd William yn glaf erbyn hyn. Dim ond ei frawd yn ei ardegau oedd yn gweithio i gynnal y teulu. Credwn fod Michael wedi dychwelyd i Ferthyr lle bu farw ym 1936. Ym 1939, cofnodwyd bod William yn byw gyda'i frawd hyn Thomas, ei chwaer Emma a'i theulu yn Stryd Hafod, Port Talbot. Roedd yn gweithio yn y gwaith dur fel llafurwr. Nid ydym wedi gallu olrhain ei fam yn bendant ar y gofrestr hon. Ond mae ei frawd hynaf Michael yn byw yng Ngherrigllwydon.

Mae cofnod milwrol William yn nodi iddo farw ym Mhen-y-bont ar Ogwr ar 4ydd Ionawr 1941 yn 29 oed. Nid oes gennym unrhyw wybodaeth bellach, ond mae gan William Fedd Rhyfel y Gymanwlad ym Mynwent Macpelah, Pontrhydyfen. Parhaodd ei frodyr a'i chworydd i fyw yn y pentref yn ogystal â Phort Talbot.

# *Air Fitter (A) Gordon Allan Channon (1916–1945)*

**L/FX79055 HMS Exeter, RN**

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Gordon was born in Pontrhydyfen, the eldest son of Ernest Channon and Christiana Evans. The 1911 Census shows that his father Ernest was a 20-year-old boarder in Blaengwynfi, he was born in Crewkerne, Somerset and had presumably come to the area seeking work as a Coal miner hewer. The couple marry in 1915 and start a family. In 1920, Ernest dies at the age of 29. He leaves behind a pregnant wife and two young sons. By the 1921 census, a widowed Christiana was living in 6 Parkers Row, Tonmawr with her three young sons, the youngest, Davy was only 9 months old at this time. The family were sharing the house with Christiana's parents and her seven siblings.

In 1938, Gordon is living at 11 Illtyd Street with his mother and stepfather (John Kingdom). In 1939, the England and Register shows that Gordon still living in Illtyd Street Neath with two Channons, presumably his brothers, he is registered as working as an Aircraft fitter. In 1940, he marries an Elizabeth (Betty) Louvain Bray, from Idwal Street Neath.

HMS Exeter was a York-class heavy cruiser built for the Royal Navy during the late 1920s. The ship was damaged in the Battle of the River Plate in the South Atlantic in 1939. After repairs, the ship spent most of 1941 on convoy

escort duties in the Far East. On 27th February 1942, Exeter was damaged by a Japanese torpedo in the First Battle of the Java Sea and was escorted south by the Dutch destroyer Witte de With.

Temporary repairs were made, and the following day Exeter was ordered to make for Colombo, she was hit again and lost all power. Now defenceless, Capt. Gordon ordered the ship to be scuttled, the Japanese meanwhile fired more torpedoes and the ship sank.

The Japanese rescued 652 men including the captain, who were now prisoners of war (POW) and transferred to Macassar (Makassar) Camp in the Celebes (Sulawesi). Senior officers were sent to Japan (Zentsuji). Subsequently, men from Exeter, were transferred to various camps to work as slave labour in a nickel mine in Koyangi, or in construction of an airport in Java.

Conditions in Japanese POW camps were appalling, men often tortured, beaten and starved. Documents show that Gordon remains on Macassar for over two years. On 20th April 1945, Gordon is recorded as dying from Pellagra, a disease caused by a diet deficient in vitamin B3 as well as Beriberi, a vitamin B1 deficiency. He was 28 years old. He is buried in Ambon War Cemetery, Indonesia.

**Addendum:** Gordon's extended family have kindly provided further information. His father Ernest, died at a relatively young age of 29 following a seizure, leaving a pregnant widow and two young sons including Gordon. Ernest is buried in Jerusalem cemetery, Pontrhydyfen.

Ganwyd Gordon ym Mhontrhydyfen, mab hynaf Ernest Channon a Christiana Evans. Mae Cyfrifiad 1911 yn dangos bod ei dad Ernest yn lletywr 20 oed ym Mlaengwynfi, cafodd ei eni yn Crewkerne, Gwlad yr Haf ac mae'n debygol ei fod wedi dod i'r ardal i chwilio am waith fel cloddiwr glo. Priododd y cwpl ym 1915 a dechrau teulu. Ym 1920, bu farw Ernest yn 29 oed, gan adael gwraig feichiog a dau fab ifanc ar ei ôl. Erbyn cyfrifiad 1921, roedd Christiana, gweddw, yn byw yn 6 Parkers Row, Ton-mawr gyda'i thri mab ifanc, yr ieuengaf, Davy, ond yn 9 mis oedd ar y pryd. Roedd y teulu'n rhannu'r tŷ gyda rhieni Christiana a'i saith brawd a chwaer.

Ym 1938, roedd Gordon yn byw yn 11 Stryd Illtyd gyda'i fam a'i lysdad (John Kingdom). Ym 1939, mae'r England and Register yn dangos bod Gordon yn dal i fyw yn Stryd Illtyd, Castell-nedd gyda dau Channon, ei frodyr yn ôl pob tebyg, ac mae wedi'i gofrestru fel ffitiwr awyrennau. Ym 1940, priododd ag Elizabeth (Betty) Louvain Bray, o Stryd Idwal, Castell-nedd.

Roedd HMS Exeter yn llong ryfel drom dosbarth Efrog a adeiladwyd ar gyfer y Llynges Frenhinol yn ystod diwedd y 1920au. Cafodd y llong ei difrodi ym Mrwydr Afon Plate yn Ne'r Iwerydd ym 1939. Ar ôl gwaith atgyweirio, treuliodd y llong y rhan fwyaf o 1941 ar ddyletswyddau hebrwng confoi yn y Dwyrain Pell. Ar 27 Chwefror 1942, cafodd Exeter ei difrodi gan dorpedo Japaneaid ym Mrwydr Gyntaf Môr Java a chafodd ei hebrwng i'r de gan y llong ryfel Iseldiraidd Witte de With.

Gwnaed atgyweiriadau dros dro, a'r diwrnod canlynol gorchymynnwyd i Exeter anelu at Colombo, ond cafodd ei tharo eto a cholodd ei holl bŵer. Gan fod y llong bellach yn ddiameddiffyn, gorchymynnodd y Capten Gordon i'r llong gael ei suddo, ac yn y cyfamser taniodd y Japaneaid fwy o dorpidos a suddodd y llong.

Achubodd y Japaneaid 652 o ddynion, gan gynnwys y capten, a oedd bellach yn garcharorion rhyfel (POW) a'u trosglwyddo i Wersyll Macassar (Makassar) yn y Celebes (Sulawesi). Anfonwyd yr uwch-swyddogion i Japan (Zentsuji). Wedi hynny, trosglwyddwyd dynion o Exeter i wahanol wersylloedd i weithio fel caethweision mewn mwynglawdd nicel yn Koyangi, neu i adeiladu maes awyr yn Java.

Roedd yr amodau yng ngwersylloedd carcharorion rhyfel Japan yn ofnadwy, gyda dynion yn aml yn cael eu harteithio, eu curo a'u llwgu. Mae dogfennau'n dangos bod Gordon wedi aros ar Macassar am dros ddwy flynedd. Ar 20 Ebrill 1945, cofnodwyd bod Gordon wedi marw o Pellagra, clefyd a achosir gan ddeiet sy'n brin o fitamin B3 yn ogystal â Beriberi, diffyg fitamin B1. Roedd yn 28 oed. Mae wedi'i gladdu ym Mynwent Ryfel Ambon, Indonesia.

Credwn fod Betty wedi ailbriodi ym 1948 ac wedi symud i Abertawe; roedd Christiana yn parhau i fyw yng Nghastell-nedd a bu farw ym 1961.

## *Pte. Cyril George Howard (1920–1945)*

**1796273, Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders, 8th Bn**

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Cyril was the younger brother of Idris who is also commemorated in this exhibition. In the 1921 census, Cyril is a 9-month-old baby living with his three elder brothers and parents Evan and Lily at Johns Terrace. Evan was employed at the Tor y Banwen Colliery in Tonmawr but was out of work because of the ongoing miners' strike at this time.

Cyril was married at the end of 1939 to a Tonmawr girl, Gwenda Arthur in Neath. However, we cannot definitively trace him to an address as there are two Cyril George Howards of the same age living in the area at this time. His parents can be found still living at 1 Johns Terrace. He is found in a newspaper report in April 1941 which stated that several Tonmawr men had been caught gambling on a Sunday on Tonmawr mountain, but it went on to state that he had since joined HM Forces. Cyril and Gwenda would go on to have four children together. Cyril's military record doesn't show exactly when, but it was likely that he enlisted around the time of his brother's death in May 1941. The 8th Battalion Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders had already suffered heavy casualties in 1940 during the retreat to Dunkirk. But it was

reformed after Dunkirk and saw action in Tunisia and Sicily. By March 1945, the regiment was fighting in Italy, taking part in the final stages of the Italian campaign. Cyril is recorded as dying on April 1st, 1945. He was 25 and is buried in Faenza War Cemetery Italy.

After the war, a newspaper report shows that Gwenda is living in Tonmawr in 1955. Cyril's parents were to stay in Tonmawr, Evan passes away in 1949. Lily passes away in 1958, she was living in Briton Ferry with her daughter. Her Obituary states that "Gwenda and family" attended.

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Cyril oedd brawd iau Idris, sydd hefyd yn cael ei goffáu yn yr arddangosfa hon. Yng nghyfrifiad 1921, mae Cyril yn fabi 9 mis oed yn byw gyda'i dri brawd hŷn a'i rieni Evan a Lily yn Johns Terrace. Roedd Evan yn gweithio ym Mhwll Glo Tor y Banwen yn Nhon-mawr ond roedd allan o waith oherwydd streic y glowyr oedd yn digwydd ar yr adeg hon.

Priododd Cyril ddiwedd 1939 â merch o Don-mawr, Gwenda Arthur, yng Nghastell-nedd. Fodd bynnag, ni allwn ei olrhain yn bendant i gyfeiriad gan fod dau Cyril George Howard o'r un oed yn byw yn yr ardal ar yr adeg hon. Gellir dod o hyd i'w rieni yn dal i fyw yn 1 Johns Terrace. Ceir sôn amdano mewn adroddiad papur newydd ym mis Ebrill 1941 a nododd fod nifer o ddynion Tonmawr wedi cael eu dal yn gamblo ar ddydd Sul ar fynydd Ton-mawr, ond aeth yr adroddiad ymlaen i ddatgan ei fod wedi ymuno â Lluoedd Arfog EM ers hynny. Byddai Cyril a Gwenda yn mynd ymlaen i gael pedwar o blant gyda'i gilydd. Nid yw cofnod milwrol Cyril yn dangos pryd yn union, ond roedd yn debygol iddo ymuno tua adeg marwolaeth ei frawd ym mis Mai 1941. Roedd 8fed Bataliwn Ucheldirwyr Argyll a Sutherland eisoes wedi dioddef colledion trwm ym 1940 yn ystod yr enciliad i Dunkirk. Ond cafodd ei ailffurfio ar ôl Dunkirk a gwelodd frwydro yn Nhiwnisia a Sisili. Erbyn mis Mawrth 1945, roedd y gatrawd yn ymladd yn yr Eidal, gan gymryd rhan yng nghyfnodau olaf ymgyrch yr Eidal. Cofnodir bod Cyril wedi marw ar 1 Ebrill, 1945. Roedd yn 25 oed ac mae wedi'i gladdu ym Mynwent Ryfel Faenza yn yr Eidal.

Ar ôl y rhyfel, mae adroddiad papur newydd yn dangos bod Gwenda yn byw yn Nhon-mawr ym 1955. Byddai rhieni Cyril yn aros yn Nhon-mawr, bu farw Evan ym 1949. Bu farw Lily ym 1958, roedd hi'n byw yn Llansawel gyda'i merch. Mae ei chofnod marwolaeth yn nodi bod "Gwenda a'i theulu" wedi mynychu.

## *Spr. Idris John Howard (1911–1941)*

**2093830, Royal Engineers 10 Bomb Dis Coy**

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Idris John was born in Tonmawr to Evan John (Collier) who was born in Porth and Lily George who originally came from Tonypany. In 1911, the couple lived with Lily's family in Blaenavon Terrace, Tonmawr with their eldest child William. By 1921, the family had grown. Idris had three siblings at this time, and the family were living in 1 Johns Terrace. Evan, like many men at that time was out of work because of the ongoing industrial dispute.

In 1937, Idris marries Kathleen in Neath. We cannot definitively identify Idris in the 1939 England and Wales Register, but we think Kathleen is living in the Whitworth Bungalow, Tonmawr.

At the outbreak of World War II, the War Office decided that the Royal Engineers would provide temporary Bomb Disposal (BD) teams until the Home Office could recruit and train Specialist ARP teams to do so. The first teams consisted of an NCO and two sappers and were required to dig down to the bombs and blow them in situ. In October 1939, the first bombs to be dropped

on the UK by the German Airforce (Luftwaffe) were in the Orkneys.

Despite almost non-existent equipment and little training, the teams learnt fast. By 1940, just 20 unexploded bombs were dealt with. This rose to 3,000 by September 1940. Between September 1940 and July 1941, over 24,000 bombs were made safe and removed. We do not have any information about Idris' service, but he is recorded as being killed in action on 13th May 1941, he was 30 years old. Idris is buried in Macpelah Cemetery in Pontrhydyfen. His parents were still living in John's Terrace in Tonmawr after the war and many of Idris' extended family live in Tonmawr today.

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Ganwyd Idris John yn Nhon-mawr i Evan John (Collier) a aned yn y Porth a Lily George a ddaeth yn wreiddiol o Donypany. Ym 1911, roedd y cwpl yn byw gyda theulu Lily yn Nheras Blaenafon, Ton-mawr gyda'u plentyn hynaf William. Erbyn 1921, roedd y teulu wedi tyfu. Roedd gan Idris dri o frodyr a chwiorydd ar yr adeg hon, ac roedd y teulu'n byw yn 1 Teras Johns. Roedd Evan, fel llawer o ddynion ar y pryd, allan o waith oherwydd yr anghydfod diwydiannol parhaus.

Ym 1937, priododd Idris â Kathleen yng Nghastell-nedd. Ni allwn adnabod Idris yn bendant yng Nghofrestr Cymru a Lloegr 1939, ond credwn fod Kathleen yn byw ym Myngalo Whitworth, Tonmawr.

Ar ddechrau'r Ail Ryfel Byd, penderfynodd y Swyddfa Ryfel y byddai'r Peirianwyr Brenhinol yn darparu timau Gwaredu Bomiau (BD) dros dro nes y gallai'r Swyddfa Gartref recriwtio a hyfforddi timau Gwaredu Bomiau Arbenigol i wneud hynny. Roedd y timau cyntaf yn cynnwys NCO a dau sapper ac roedd yn ofynnol iddynt gloddio i lawr at y bomiau a'u chwythu yn eu lle. Ym mis Hydref 1939, roedd y bomiau cyntaf i gael eu gollwng ar Brydain gan Lu Awyr yr Almaen (Luftwaffe) yn Ynysoedd Orkney.

Er gwaethaf meddu ar y nesaf peth i ddim o offer a fawr ddim hyfforddiant, dysgodd y timau'n gyflym. Erbyn dechrau 1940, dim ond 20 o fomiau heb ffrwydro a gafodd eu trin. Cododd hyn i 3,000 erbyn mis Medi 1940. Rhwng mis Medi 1940 a mis Gorffennaf 1941, gwnaed dros 24,000 o fomiau yn ddiogel a'u symud. Nid oes gennym unrhyw wybodaeth am wasanaeth Idris, ond mae cofnod ei fod wedi'i ladd mewn brwydr ar 13 Mai 1941, roedd yn 30 oed. Mae Idris wedi'i gladdu ym Mynwent Macpelah ym Mhontrhydyfen. Roedd ei rieni'n dal i fyw yn John's Terrace yn Nhon-mawr ar ôl y rhyfel ac mae llawer o deulu estynedig Idris yn byw yn Nhon-mawr heddiw.

## *Pte. Enoch Jones (1918–1940)*

**7358107, RAMC, 11 Field Amb.**

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Enoch came from a large family of older siblings and half-siblings; most being born before the family came to Tonmawr. His parents (Thomas & Emily Jane) originally came from Monmouthshire and had lived in Clyne and Resolven prior to them coming to Fforchdwm. This was his father's second marriage. In the 1921 Census, the family are living at Pontycymmer, Upper Tonmawr. His father was supplementing his income, working as a woodman. The majority of miners were on strike during the spring and summer of 1921 due to PM Lloyd George and the mine owners opting to privatise the collieries which were nationalised in WW1. Census records in 1921, show that many working men in the area were out of work because of this dispute. They would soon return, working longer hours for less pay. In September 1939, the England & Wales Register showed that Thomas had retired, and the couple and their son Douglas were living in 12, Fforchdwm, although Enoch was not living at home at this time.

Many single men had already enlisted by then. Records show that Enoch was a member of the Royal Army Medical Corps. By May 1940, Hitler's western offensive had started and on May 19th, the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) Commander, General Lord Gort, ordered a withdrawal of troops toward French ports including Dunkirk. By the following day, German forces reach the French coast at Abbeville. It appears that Enoch was caught up in this action as records indicate that he was killed in action on this date, he was 21. He is buried at Heverlee War Cemetery, Belgium. Over the next days and weeks, Churchill ordered the preparation of vessels to evacuate the BEF which would begin in Dunkirk on June 3rd.

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Daeth Enoch o deulu mawr o frodyr a chwiorydd a hanner brodyr a chwiorydd hŷn; ganwyd y rhan fwyaf cyn i'r teulu ddod i Don-mawr. Daeth ei rieni (Thomas ac Emily Jane) yn wreiddiol o Sir Fynwy ac roeddent wedi byw yn Clun a Resolven cyn iddynt ddod i Fforchdwm. Dyma oedd ail briodas ei dad. Yng Nghyfrifiad 1921, mae'r teulu'n byw ym Mhontycymer, Ton-mawr Uchaf. Roedd ei dad yn ychwanegu at ei incwm, gan weithio fel coediwr. Roedd y rhan fwyaf o'r glowyr ar streic yn ystod gwanwyn a haf 1921 oherwydd bod y Prif Weinidog Lloyd George a pherchnogion y pyllau glo wedi dewis preifateiddio'r pyllau a gafodd eu gwladoli yn ystod y Rhyfel Byd Cyntaf. Mae cofnodion cyfrifiad 1921 yn dangos bod llawer o ddynion oed gweithio'r ardal allan o waith oherwydd yr anghydfod hwn. Byddent yn dychwelyd yn fuan, gan weithio oriau hirach am lai o gyflog. Ym mis Medi 1939, dangosodd Cofrestr Cymru a Lloegr fod Thomas wedi ymddeol, a bod y cwpl a'u mab Douglas yn byw yn 12, Fforchdwm, er nad oedd Enoch yn byw gartref ar yr adeg hon.

Roedd llawer o ddynion sengl eisoes wedi ymuno erbyn hynny. Mae cofnodion yn dangos bod Enoch yn aelod o Gorfflu Meddygol y Fyddin Frenhinol. Erbyn mis Mai 1940, roedd ymosodiad gorllewinol Hitler wedi dechrau ac ar 19eg o Fai, gorchmynnodd Cadlywydd Llu Alldaith Prydain (CLIAP), y Cadfridog Arglwydd Gort, i filwyr dynnu'n ôl tuag at borthladdoedd Ffrainc gan gynnwys Dunkirk. Erbyn y diwrnod canlynol, roedd lluoedd yr Almaen yn cyrraedd arfordir Ffrainc yn Abbeville. Ymddengys bod Enoch wedi'i ddal yn y frwydr hon gan fod cofnodion yn dangos iddo gael ei ladd mewn brwydr ar y dyddiad hwn; roedd yn 21 oed. Mae wedi'i gladdu ym Mynwent Ryfel Heverlee, Gwlad Belg. Dros y dyddiau a'r wythnosau canlynol, gorchmynnodd Churchill baratoi llongau i adael y CLIAP a fyddai'n dechrau o Dunkirk ar 3ydd o Fehefin.

## *Sto. David Ivor Richards (1910–1942)*

**D/KX 117129, HMS Leda, RN**

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David Ivor Richards was born in Tonmawr. His parents David and Mary were also from Tonmawr and living in 2 Tip Cottages with their young family. David was working as an engine driver in the colliery. By the 1921 Census, Mary had passed away and his father had remarried to Nellie, and the family were now living in 5 Welsh Row, Tonmawr. The 1939 England and Wales Register show that David had married Irene (also from Tonmawr) and were living a few doors down from his father in 2 Welsh Row. He was working as a Steel works labourer.

David was stationed on HMS Leda, a British Fleet Halcyon Class Minesweeper. Launched in 1937, Leda took part in Operation DYNAMO as part of the evacuation of Dunkirk in 1940. By September 1941, she was deployed for convoy and minesweeping duties were in Iceland and North Russia. On September 20th, 1942, Leda was hit by two torpedoes during poor weather. She sank within 90 minutes with the loss of 46 lives. David was one of those crewmen, he was 32. He is commemorated on the Plymouth Naval Memorial. Irene continued to live in Tonmawr and eventually remarried.

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Ganwyd David Ivor Richards yn Nhon-mawr. Roedd ei rieni David a Mary hefyd o Don-mawr ac yn byw yn 2 Tip Cottages gyda'u teulu ifanc. Roedd David yn gweithio fel gyrrwr injan yn y lofa. Erbyn Cyfrifiad 1921, roedd Mary wedi marw ac roedd ei dad wedi ailbriodi â Nellie, a'r teulu bellach yn byw yn 5 Welsh Row, Ton-mawr. Mae Cofrestr Cymru a Lloegr 1939 yn dangos bod David wedi priodi ag Irene (hefyd o Don-mawr) ac yn byw ychydig ddrysau i lawr oddi wrth ei dad yn 2 Welsh Row. Roedd yn gweithio fel llafurwr yn y gwaith dur.

Roedd David wedi'i leoli ar HMS Leda, llong ysgubo mwyngloddiau Dosbarth Halcyon o Lynges Prydain. Wedi'i lansio ym 1937, cymerodd y Leda ran yn Operation DYNAMO fel rhan o'r broses o ddod â milwyr adref o Dunkirk ym 1940. Erbyn mis Medi 1941, roedd hi wedi'i defnyddio ar gyfer dyletswyddau confoi a dyletswyddau ysgubo ffrwydron yng Ngwlad yr Iâ a Gogledd Rwsia. Ar 20 Medi, 1942, trawyd y Leda gan ddau dorpido yn ystod tywydd gwael. Suddodd o fewn 90 munud gan golli 46 o fywydau. Roedd David yn un o'r criw hynny, roedd yn 32 oed. Mae wedi'i goffáu ar Gofeb Lyngesol Plymouth. Parhaodd Irene i fyw yn Nhon-mawr ac ailbriododd maes o law.

# *The Civilian Casualties of Pontrhydyfen WWII*

## **Background**

Swansea suffered the most devastating bombing raids by the Luftwaffe during the Second World War. In particular, February 1941 saw a prolonged raid over a three-day period. In all, over 390 Swansea civilians were lost during the war. The West Glamorgan Archives holds details of these events together with a list of casualties. Many of these losses are not found in contemporary newspaper reports of the day because of the reporting restrictions imposed at that time.

Several raids also occurred across Neath and Port Talbot. The Neath Antiquarians also holds information and photographs of damage sustained by bombing. As well as residential damage in Neath in August 1940, the Luftwaffe also targeted industrial sites in Skewen and in Port Talbot. Civilian casualties occurred throughout the war, but other casualties occurred as a result of coming across unexploded ordnance at target ranges. Three young boys died on Baglan Moors in July 1945 when playing with unexploded bombs.

In the early hours of 11th May 1941, several bombs were dropped in the area of Cwmafan and Pwlllyglaw. Also, a bomber on its way back from a raid, dropped its two remaining bombs over Pontrhydyfen. While one fell harmlessly, the other hit a house, number 18 Morgans Terrace.

A married couple Stephen and Gretta (Margaretta) Emmanuel died at the scene. Their daughter Mair and Gretta's father, John Lewis were transferred to hospital and died from their injuries the following day. The couple's two sons Ivor and John were pulled out of the damaged house, physically unscathed but suffering the devastating loss of both parents, a grandfather and their infant sister.

**John Lewis (1881-1941):** Both sides of John's family came from Pontrhydyfen, although his wife Mary King was born in Yorkshire, before her family returned to Llangeinor, Bridgend. They married and had their first child in Bridgend, but the remaining six children were born in Pontrhydyfen. In 1921, the census showed that John worked as a miner in the Argoed Colliery. By 1939, the England & Wales Register shows that John is a widower and is working as a sewer man for Neath Rural Council. Also living with him is his daughter, son in law and young family. He died on May 12th at West Glamorgan County Hospital aged 60.

**Ivy Margaretta Emmanuel [nee Lewis] (1909-1941):** Gretta was born in Pontrhydyfen, the eldest child of John and Mary Lewis. She lived in Morgans Terrace with her parents and six siblings. A newspaper report captures her marriage to her husband Stephen in 1927. The couple initially lived in Brombil Road in Margam where she had her first son Ivor. But by 1939, the couple are living with Gretta's widowed father and three children (Ivor, John and Mair). Gretta died on 11th May at the scene, she was 33.

**Stephen John Emmanuel (1905-1941):** Stephen and his siblings were born in Trimsaran, near Kidwelly. Both of Stephen's parents (Rhys and Lettice) families came from the Trimsaran area. His large family moved to Mayfield Street Port Talbot by 1921. Stephen was working as a sample boy in the steel works, and his father Rhys was working as a roller man, also in the steel works. By 1927, the Emmanuel family were living in Brombil Road and the newly married couple lived initially with the Emmanuel family. By 1939, Stephen had followed his father into the steel rolling mill but was now living with his young family at 18 Morgans Terrace. Stephen died on 11th May at the scene, he was 36.

**Lettisha Mair Emmanuel (1939-1941):** Mair was the youngest child of the Emmanuel family. She had two older brothers Ivor and John. She died on May 12th at West Glamorgan County Hospital; she was just 2 years old.

**Ivor and John Emmanuel:** the young brothers came to live with the extended Lewis family in Pontrhydyfen. Despite tragic circumstances they went on to marry and have families of their own. John eventually emigrated to New Zealand where he lived for the remainder of his life. Ivor went on to have a successful stage and screen career, becoming a recognisable figure when coming back

to the village to visit his very much loved 'Auntie Flossie.' He retired to Spain where his widow and daughter live today.

Relatives of the brothers, still live in the village today and in 2024, relatives came together from Spain and New Zealand for the unveiling of the Ivor Emmanuel Memorial Bench which overlooks the children's park alongside Morgans Terrace.

During this project we found a report of a civilian casualty of a man whose family lived in the village. We have added him to this exhibition

**Evan Thomas Bevan (1897-1943):** his parents (John & Hannah) had lived and farmed in Pontrhydyfen & Tonmawr (Ty'n Ton) for over three decades. Evan was a colliery fireman and married his wife Alice May from Neath. The couple are found living with their two children in Clyne, Neath in the 1939 England and Wales Register. He was an Air Raid Warden. He died on 24th July 1943 aged 46. His parents continued to live in Tonmawr.

## *Colledigion Sifil yr Ail Ryfel Byd ym Mhontrhydyfen*

### **Cefndir**

Dioddefodd Abertawe gyrchoedd bomio ofnadwy gan y Luftwaffe yn ystod yr Ail Ryfel Byd, gyda Chwefror 1941 yn gweld cyrch estynedig dros gyfnod o dridiau. Marwodd dros 390 o drigolion Abertawe yn ystod y rhyfel. Mae Archifau Gorllewin Morgannwg yn cynnwys manylion y digwyddiadau hyn, gyda rhestr o'r colledigion. Ni welir wybodaeth am y rhain mewn papurau newyddion cyfoesol oherwydd cyfyngiadau gohebu ag oedd yn weithredol ar y pryd.

Dioddefodd Castell Nedd a Phort Talbot sawl gyrch hefyd, a mae gan Antiquarians Neath wybodaeth a ffotograffiau o ddifrod a'i achoswyd gan fomio. Yn ogystal â'r difrod preswyl yng Nghastell Nedd yn ystod 1940, targedodd y Luftwaffe safleoedd diwydiannol yn Sgiwen a Phort Talbot. Digwyddodd golledigion sifil trwy gydol y rhyfel, ond digwyddodd rhai fel canlyniad o ddod ar draws ordinhad heb ei ffrwydro: bu farw tri bachgen ifanc ar Baglan Moors yng Ngorffennaf 1945 wrth chwarae gyda bomiau heb eu ffrwydro.

Yn ystod oriau cynnar Mai 11eg 1941, gollyngwyd sawl fom yn ardal Cwmafan a Phwllglas. Hefyd, wrth ddychwelyd o'i chyrch, gollyngodd awyren fomio ei bomiau ag oedd ar ôl ar Bontrhydyfen: tra i un ohonynt ddisgyn heb achosi difrod, tarodd y llall 18, Morgan's Terrace. Marwodd gwpl priod, Stephen a Gretta (Margaretta) Emmanuel ar y safle; trosglwyddwyd eu merch, Mair, a thad Gretta, John Lewis, i'r ysbyty, lle buont farw o'u hanafiadau y diwrnod wedyn; fe dynnodd feibion y cwpl, Ivor a John, o weddillion y tŷ, heb eu difrodi yn gorfforol, ond yn dioddef colled ofnadwy eu rhieni, eu tad-cu ac eu chwaer fach.

**John Lewis (1881 – 1941):** Daeth bob ochr teulu John o Bontrhydyfen, er i'w wraig, Mary King, gael ei geni yn Swydd Efrog cyn i'w theulu ddychwelyd i Langeinor, Pen-y-Bont ar Ogwr. Mae Cyfrifiad 1921 yn dangos John yn gweithio fel glöwr yn mhwll Argoed. Erbyn 1939, mae Cofrestr Lloegr a Chymru yn recordio John yn widwer ac yn gweithio i Neath Rural Council fel gweithiwr carffosydd. Roedd ei ferch, mab-yng-nghyfraith a'u teulu ifanc hefyd yn byw gyda fe. Bu farw John ar Fai 12fed 1941 yn Ysbyty Swydd Morgannwg yn 60 blwydd oed.

**Ivy Margaretta Emmanuel (née Lewis) (1909 – 1941):** Cafodd Gretta ei geni ym Mhontrhydyfen, yn blentyn hynaf John a Mary Lewis. Bywiodd yn Morgan's Terrace, gyda'i rhieni a'u chwech plentyn arall. Mae adroddiad papur newyddion yn cofnodi ei phriodas i'w gŵr cyntaf, Stephen, ym 1927. Bywiodd y cwpl i ddechrau yn Brombil Road, Margam, lle cafodd hi ei mab cyntaf, Ivor, ond erbyn 1939 roedd y cwpl yn byw gyda thad gweddw Gretta a thri o blant (Ivor, John a Mair). Bu farw Gretta ar Fai 11eg ar safle dinistr eu tŷ gan fom Almaeneg. Bu yn 33 blwydd oed.

**Stephen John Emmanuel (1905 – 1941):** Cafodd Stephen a'i frodyr a chwaerydd eu geni yn Nhrimsaran, yn ymyl Kidwelly. Daeth teuluoedd ei ddau riant (Rhys a Lettice) o ardal Trimsaran. Erbyn 1921 roedd ei deulu mawr wedi symud i Mayfield Street, Port Talbot. Roedd Stephen yn gweithio fel gwas 'sample' yn y gwaith dur, gyda'i dad, Rhys, hefyd yn gweithio yna fel 'Roller Man'. Erbyn 1927 roedd y teulu Emmanuel yn byw yn Brombil Road, Margam ac I ddechrau bywiodd Stephen a'i wraig newydd gyda nhw. Erbyn 1939, roedd Stephen wedi dilyn ei dad i'r felin rollo dur, ond roedd yn byw nawr gyda'i deulu ifanc yn 18, Morgan's Terrace. Bu farw Stephen ar Fai 11eg ar safle dinistr y tŷ, yn 36 blwydd oed.

**Lettisha Mair Emmanuel (1939 – 1941):** Plentyn ieuengaf y teulu Emmanuel oedd Mair, gyda dau frawd hŷn, Ivor a John. Bu farw ar Fai 12fed yn Ysbyty Swydd Gorllewin Morgannwg. Bu ond yn 2 Blwydd oed.

**Ivor a John Emmanuel:** Daeth y brodyr ifanc i fyw gyda'r teulu estynedig Lewis ym Mhonrhydyfen. Er amodau trychinebus eu plentyndod, aethon ymlaen i briodi ac i gael eu teuluoedd eu hunain. Ymfudodd John i Seland Newydd, lle bywiodd am weddill ei fywyd. Cafodd Ivor yrfa llwyddiannus iawn ar y llwyfan a'r sgrîn, gan ddod yn wyneb adnabyddus yn y pentref pan ddaeth yn ôl i ymweld a'i 'Anti Flossie' annwyl. Ymddeolodd Ivor i Sbaen, lle mae ei weddw a'i ferch yn byw o hyd.

Mae perthnasau'r brodyr yn dal i fyw yn y pentref, ac yn 2024 daeth aelodau'r teulu at ei gilydd ar gyfer dadorchuddiad Mainc Goffa Ivor Emmanuel, sydd yn edrych dros y parc plant yn ymyl Morgan's Terrace.

Yn ystod ymchwilio'r prosiect hwn, cawsom hyd i record ychwanegol am golledig sifil – dyn a oedd yn byw gyda'i deulu yn y pentref – a fe ychwanegwyd ef i'r arddangosfa hon.

**Evan Thomas Bevan (1897 – 1943):** Roedd rhieni Evan, John a Hannah, wedi byw a ffermio ym Mhonrhydyfen a Thonmawr (Tŷ'n y Ton) dros dri degawd. Tanwr pwll glo oedd Evan, a phriododd ei wraig, Alice May o Gastell Nedd. Yng Nghofrestr Lloegr a Chymru 1939 maent yn ymddangos yn byw gyda'u dau blentyn yng Nghlyne, Castell Nedd. Bu Evan yn Warden Cyrch Awyr, a bu farw ar Orffennaf 24ain 1943, yn 46 blwydd oed. Parhaodd ei rieni i fyw yn Nhonmawr.



# Heroine Eirwen dies in Holland

AN Honorary Life Member of the West Wales Branch of the Normandy Veterans Association, who was awarded with a series of medals after the war, has died in Eindhoven, Holland.

Mrs. Eirwen Hendriks-Jones was a native of Bryn, Port Talbot. She met her husband, Henke, when he was stationed in Porthcawl after escaping from the German invasion of

Holland in 1940 to join the Free Dutch Army.

Once married, Eirwen joined the Free Dutch Red Cross and served in Normandy where she helped to rehabilitate the local population, often within range of gunfire.

For her devotion to duty she was awarded the Oorlogsherinneringskruis by the Dutch government, the 1939-45 Star, The France and Germany Star and the 1939-45 war medal by the British Government.

After the war she worked unceasingly for the Eindhoven

Branch of the Royal British Legion, tending graves in the Military War Cemeteries and arranging pilgrimages by relatives of the dead.

In recognition of their untiring efforts on behalf of the Association, both Eirwen and Henke were appointed Honorary Life Members of the West Wales Branch in September 1987.

Branch President Mr. John Evans attended her funeral in Holland, and her ashes will be buried at Margam Crematorium in July.

## PONTRHYDYFEN.

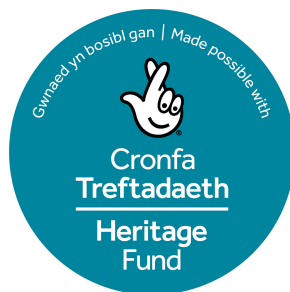
A strange story reaches us of how a Pomeranian dog followed its master from Pontrhydyfen to Winchester

It appears that Private David Jones, of Gwendraeth Villa, Pontrhydyfen, left Prestatyn (North Wales), where he had been stationed, for Winchester last month. One day recently, when outside his camp, his attention was attracted to a dog which persisted in following him, and upon examination Jones was astonished to find his own name and address on the collar, and subsequently identified his little canine pet.

He ascertained that the dog had been missing from home for some days, and one conjecture is that it must have been picked up by some soldier who left the district for Winchester, and ultimately strayed across its long-lost owner.



Pte. Henry David, R. W. F., wounded. Son of Mr. and Mrs. Jenkin David, Etailfach, Pontrhydyfen. Was employed at North End Colliery, Avon Valley.



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*For the inclusion of additional information*

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