

HEDDLU DE CYMRU

SOUTH WALES POLICE

The Police of South Wales and The Great War 1914-1918

Concluding the Story



LEST WE FORGET



LEARN  ENGAGE  REMEMBER





*Chief Constable Matt Jukes at the South Wales Police Remembrance Service
at Police Headquarters, Bridgend on 11th November 2019.*

CONTENTS

1. Introduction
2. Remembrance 2014-2018
3. Corrections and clarifications
4. Additional photographs
5. Another casualty of the war
6. More Gallantry Awards
7. Those who also served
8. Reflections

I. INTRODUCTION

In 2014 South Wales Police established a project to tie in with the start of the commemoration of the centenary of the First World War.

A project group was formed comprising of serving and retired staff and during the course of the next five years they undertook work to remember those policemen from South Wales Police's predecessor forces of Glamorgan, Cardiff, Swansea, Merthyr and Neath who served during the war and especially those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

The purpose of this booklet

A considerable amount of material was produced by the project which was reflected in a series of booklets. It had been intended that the one for 1918 would complete the series but on further reflection it has been felt that it would be appropriate to compile one further booklet which would:

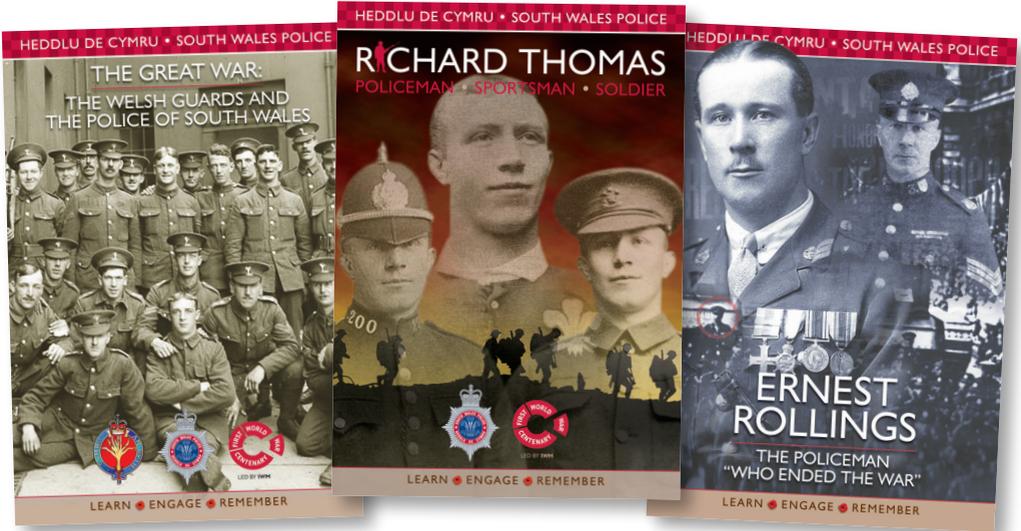
- Set out a summary of what the project has achieved.
- Highlight some minor corrections which need to be made to previous booklets.

- Include additional photographs of police officers which have come to light since the earlier booklets were produced.
- Give details of a former policeman who was a casualty of the war whose details we have discovered.
- Provide details of further police officers who we have identified as having been recognised for their gallantry.
- Tell the stories of some of the many police officers who served in the armed forces during the war, who survived it and who have not been included in previous booklets as casualties or as ones who received gallantry awards.
- Offer some final reflections on the war and its impact on the police of South Wales.

What our project has done

Commemorative Booklets

Eight booklets have been produced, one for each year of the war together with three on the specific subjects of the Welsh Guards, Richard Thomas and Ernest Rollings.



Roll of Honour

For the first time a combined Roll of Honour has been produced in booklet form which includes brief details of all those from our predecessor forces who died.

THE POLICE OF SOUTH WALES AND THE GREAT WAR	
<p>ROLL OF HONOUR 1914 • 1919 GLAMORGAN CONSTABULARY</p>  <p>GLAMORGAN POLICE WAR MEMORIAL</p>	<p>ROLL OF HONOUR 1914 • 1919 GLAMORGAN CONSTABULARY</p>
	<p>ANGUS, JAMES ROBERT POLICE SERGEANT 310 ACTING LIEUTENANT COLONEL 11TH BATTALION, SOUTH WALES BORDERERS Died 17th September 1917 Buried at Erquinghem-Lys Churchyard Extension, France Remembered on the Glamorgan Police War Memorial</p> <p>BERESFORD, EDWARD CONSTABLE 205 SERGEANT 14215 8TH BATTALION, SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE REGIMENT Killed in action 10th July 1916 Remembered on the Tilipval Memorial, France and the Glamorgan Police War Memorial</p> <p>BROWN, RICHARD WILLIAM CONSTABLE 52 SERGEANT 4916 17TH BATTALION, ROYAL WELSH FUSILIERS Killed in action 4th September 1918 Buried at Sally-Saillisset British Cemetery, France Remembered on the Glamorgan Police War Memorial</p> <p>CARTER, WILLIAM HENRY CONSTABLE 404 PRIVATE 1214 1ST BATTALION, WELSH GUARDS Died of wounds 25th October 1915 Buried at Lillers Communal Cemetery, France Remembered on the Glamorgan Police War Memorial</p>
3	4

Films

Two short films were produced to mark the start and end of the war which are available on YouTube. The second film was accompanied by a soundtrack by the Treorchy Male Voice Choir.

Remembrance

- Wreaths or crosses have been placed on graves and memorials in Wales, England, France and Belgium to remember 88 of the 93 police officers who died.
- During every South Wales Police Remembrance Service held each November between 2014 and 2018, reference was made to the war and the names of those who died during the relevant year were read out. In the section which follows this Introduction we reproduce the relevant parts of each Order of Service. A film of the service for 2018 was put on to YouTube.



South Wales Police wreath at the Thiepval Memorial, Somme.

Memorial Cross.





South Wales Police Remembrance Service November 2018.

- A special commemoration was held at St Edeyrn's Church, Llanedeyrn, Cardiff in April 2018 at the grave of PC William Jones Thomas who died

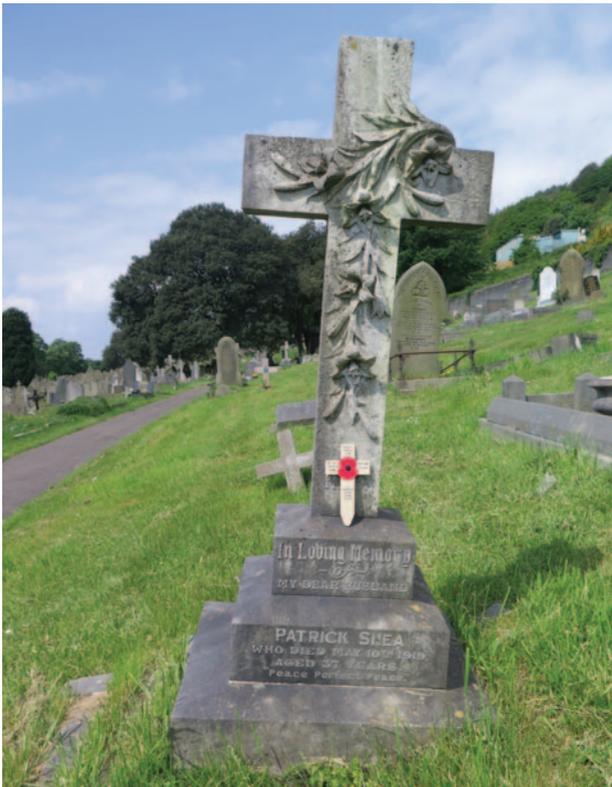
in 1917. The event was attended by members of his family and representatives of the Welsh Guards and South Wales Police.



Memorial Service for PC William Jones Thomas.

- During the course of our researches it became apparent that whilst PC Patrick Shea's name appeared on the Swansea Borough Police memorial at the Swansea Central Police Station, which records the names of those from that force who died during the war, he was not included in the records of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission even though it was clear that he had died of illness as

a consequence of his military service during the war. In addition, it was not known where PC Shea was buried. Following further detailed research his grave was located in a private plot at Danygraig Cemetery in Swansea and the Commission, following our submission to it of full details of the matter, amended its register of the casualties of the war to include PC Shea's name and details.



PC Patrick Shea's grave.



Members of Dick Thomas' family and representatives of South Wales Police in front of the display in Ty Richard Thomas.

Exhibitions/Displays

- In 2015 a new joint police and local authority building in Bridgend was named "Ty Richard Thomas" in memory of ex Welsh rugby international and Glamorgan policeman Dick Thomas, who was killed in action at Mametz Wood in 1916. A wall display in the foyer tells his story as a policeman, sportsman and soldier.
- Also, in relation to Dick Thomas, we have been very pleased that items of sporting memorabilia relating to him have been deposited on loan at the South Wales Police

Heritage Centre at Police Headquarters in Bridgend by his grandson, Richard Thomas. These form part of a display which includes his Welsh international rugby cap from 1906, when he played against South Africa, his Welsh jersey, a silver cup commemorating the Welsh Grand Slam of 1908-09 and a Triple Crown Medal together with the Memorial Scroll in relation to his death in the war. His Royal Highness, the Prince of Wales, viewed the display during a visit to the Heritage Centre on 2nd July 2019.



The Prince of Wales views the Dick Thomas display.

- An exhibition at the Firing Line Museum, Cardiff Castle, entitled “Rollings-the policeman who ‘ended

the war” was seen by over 111,000 people between 2017 and 2018.

The Rollings Exhibition.



- A permanent display regarding the First World War has been created at the Heritage Centre. The items include those relating to Ernest Rollings.
- To mark the centenary of the Armistice in 2018 display boards were installed in the foyer of the main building at Police Headquarters telling the stories of our police officers during the war. The boards were also displayed by Glamorgan Archives in Cardiff.
- In addition, images of soldier-police officers who died, were installed on the windows of a building at Headquarters and children from a local school created a mural display of poppies for hoardings where building work was being undertaken.



Heritage Centre displays.



Window display at Y Bont, Police Headquarters, Bridgend.



Media

There has been regular engagement with broadcast media, and with the public and our own staff via our internal and external websites and social media. ITV Wales, for example, in November 2018 ran news items on Rollings and PC Frank Trott, a Glamorgan Police officer who died on 11th November 1918.

Partnership engagement

A particularly pleasing aspect of the project is the extent to which we have been able to work with partners. Here are a few examples:

- South Wales Police has been privileged to be a member of the Welsh Government's First World War Commemoration Board chaired by Professor Sir Deian Hopkin, the First Minister's Expert Adviser on the commemorations. The photograph

below shows members of the Board, along with the First Minister and Sir Deian, at their final meeting in December 2019.

- Commonwealth War Graves Commission: it featured PC Frank Trott on their website commemorating the centenary of the Armistice ("11 on the 11th").
- Royal British Legion: an article on our project was written for the programme for the Wales Festival of Remembrance in 2018.
- Imperial War Museums: featured the project generally, and the Rollings story in particular, on their partnership website.
- A talk on Rollings was delivered to the South Wales Branch of the Western Front Association. The talk is also given to groups of visitors to the Heritage Centre.



Engagement with families, police officers, police staff and the public

- Visitors to the Heritage Centre have shown a great deal of interest in the First World War display and copies of our booklets are very popular. Our visitors come from a variety of backgrounds-such as older people's groups, schools, colleges as well as individuals.
- A particularly rewarding aspect of the project is the extent to which we have been able to engage with families of those who served with contact via e mail and correspondence and visits to Headquarters to see the War Memorial and the Heritage Centre. Several of them have also attended the annual Remembrance Service.
- There has been a noticeable and very positive response from police officers and police staff evidenced by contact from individuals, reaction to displays and the large attendance at the annual Remembrance Services.

Legacy

- All the booklets, in addition to being widely distributed in hard copy, are

available for future reference on the Heritage Centre web page and also on the Peoples Collection website.

- A copy of the Rollings booklet was submitted to the Australian War Memorial in Canberra (Rollings was attached to the Australian Corps when he recovered secret German documents in August 1918) who have placed it in their archives.
- Copies of all the booklets have been deposited with the National Library of Wales, Glamorgan Archives and West Glamorgan Archives.

Conclusion

It has been a huge privilege for all those involved with the project to be able to contribute to remembering the police officers who served in the armed forces during the First World War and especially those who died as a result of it.

It is hoped that our endeavours have provided a lasting and fitting tribute to them all.

Gareth Madge OBE

Chair

First World War Project Group



2. REMEMBRANCE 2014 TO 2018

Order of Service 11th November 2014

SERVICE OF COMMEMORATION

“REMEMBERED WITH PRIDE”

A hundred years ago on 4th August 1914, Britain entered the First World War following Germany's invasion of Belgium. It was to be a war the like of which had not been seen before. Millions fought and died.

Several hundred police officers from our predecessor forces of Glamorgan, Cardiff, Swansea, Merthyr and Neath served in the armed forces. In total 90 officers died. Many were wounded. Some were recognised for their gallantry.

I have been privileged to lead a project group within South Wales Police to remember the bravery and sacrifice of those who served. In doing so, we have taken as our guiding message the words “remembered with pride”.

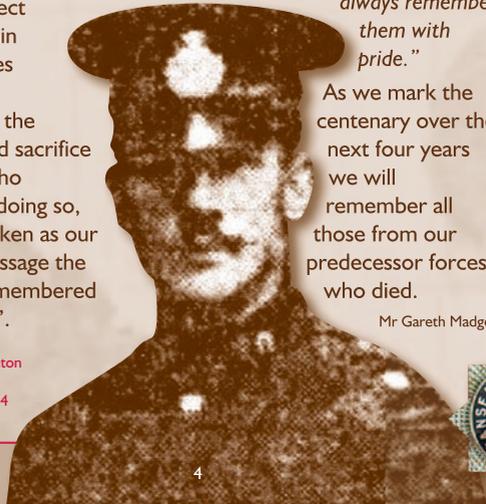
PC Albert Appleton
Killed in action
24th August 1914

They come from a letter written to the mother of PC Edwin Samuel Brown, a Cardiff City officer who was killed in action on 27th September 1918 in northern France aged 27. The letter from his commanding officer says this:

“No words of mine I know can comfort you in your great sorrow. God alone can do that. But you have the consolation of knowing that he died doing his duty in a good cause, as so many brave men have done, and we who knew them shall always remember them with pride.”

As we mark the centenary over the next four years we will remember all those from our predecessor forces who died.

Mr Gareth Madge



SERVICE OF COMMEMORATION

1914 ROLL OF HONOUR

24TH AUGUST

PC Albert Appleton (Swansea)

BETWEEN 14TH AND 16TH SEPTEMBER

PC Albert Morgan Camfield (Cardiff)

25TH OCTOBER

PC Frank Ford (Cardiff)

2ND NOVEMBER

PC Thomas Evans (Merthyr)

4TH NOVEMBER

PC William John Thomas (Cardiff and Glamorgan)

7TH NOVEMBER

PC Bert Richard Clements (Cardiff)

10TH NOVEMBER

PC Alfred Frederick Leonard (Merthyr)

10TH NOVEMBER

PC Thomas Lemuel Jones (Cardiff)

12TH NOVEMBER

PC Sidney William Goodliffe (Glamorgan)

15TH NOVEMBER

PC Frank Willis (Cardiff)

17TH NOVEMBER

PC Walter John Twining (Cardiff)

21ST DECEMBER

PC Henry Ernest James (Cardiff)

We remember them with pride. Yn angof ni chant fod.

REMEMBERING OUR FALLEN HEROES WITH PRIDE

Order of Service 11th November 2015

SERVICE OF COMMEMORATION

“REMEMBERED WITH PRIDE”

Last year South Wales Police, along with many other organisations and individuals, commemorated the centenary of the outbreak of the War in 1914.

We continue that commemoration this year by remembering the events of 1915, particularly as they affected the members of our predecessor forces of Glamorgan, Cardiff, Swansea, Merthyr and Neath.

It was a year that saw bitter fighting at Gallipoli and at the Battle of Loos. Poison gas was used for the first time by the Germans at the Second Battle of Ypres and by the British at Loos.

Away from the front line, civilian deaths and injuries were caused by bombing attacks on England, and in May 1915 over 1000 passengers and crew lost their lives when the British liner, the “Lusitania”, was sunk by a German U boat off the coast of Ireland.

This year we remember fifteen members of our predecessor forces who died in 1915. Six of them were killed on one day, 27th September, during the Battle of Loos.

Eight of those who died were from the Welsh Guards which was formed in February 1915. In total thirty three members of our predecessor forces died during the War whilst serving with the Regiment.

The events of 1915 may now seem far in the past but, as the amount of public interest in the centenary commemorations has shown, there is still a commitment to remember those who served and especially those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

South Wales Police has sought to play its part by honouring our former police officers and it will continue to do so.

They deserve nothing less.

Gareth Madge OBE

Chair, First World War Project Group

SERVICE OF COMMEMORATION

1915 ROLL OF HONOUR

30TH APRIL

PC Bertram Frederick Crees (Glamorgan/Royal Engineers)

7TH MAY

PC William Arthur Jones (Swansea/Royal Engineers)

20TH MAY

PC William George Mathias (Glamorgan/Welsh Guards)

7TH AUGUST

PC Frederick Richards (Glamorgan/South Wales Borderers)

27TH SEPTEMBER

PC Michael Doyle (Glamorgan/Irish Guards)

PC Benjamin Evans (Cardiff/Welsh Guards)

PC David William Evans (Glamorgan/Welsh Guards)

PC David Charles Grant (Glamorgan/Welsh Guards)

PC Ernest Lewis Reeves (Glamorgan/Welsh Guards)

PC Charles Henry Snailham (Glamorgan/Grenadier Guards)

6TH OCTOBER

PC William East (Glamorgan/Welsh Guards)

8TH OCTOBER

PC William Holland (Swansea/Welsh Regiment)

12TH OCTOBER

PC Leonard Nowell (Glamorgan/Welsh Guards)

17TH OCTOBER

PC William Hammond (Glamorgan/Grenadier Guards)

25TH OCTOBER

PC William Henry Carter (Glamorgan/Welsh Guards)

We remember them with pride. Yn angof ni chant fod.

Order of Service 11th November 2016

SERVICE OF COMMEMORATION

“REMEMBERED WITH PRIDE”

This year South Wales Police continues to play its part in the commemoration of the centenary of the First World War.

1916 was, of course, a year of terrible losses for the British Army. The first day of the Battle of the Somme, 1st July, saw it suffering nearly 60,000 casualties of whom nearly 20,000 were killed.

The Battle went on until 18th November by which time total British and Commonwealth casualties were over 400,000. The French and German armies also suffered huge losses.

During the course of 1916 a total of 29 police officers from our predecessor forces of Glamorgan, Cardiff, Swansea and Merthyr died.

Five Glamorgan policemen, including Dick Thomas, the former Welsh international rugby player, died at Mametz Wood on the Somme where the Welsh Division displayed such heroism during the capture of the Wood.

It was a great privilege for me to be present at the Welsh National Service of Remembrance at the Wood in July. It was a truly humbling experience to stand with Dick Thomas' grandson on

the very ground on which his grandfather had died exactly one hundred years earlier.

Later in the Somme battle in September thirteen police officers died: 10 from Glamorgan and one each from Cardiff, Swansea and Merthyr.

There were others too who died elsewhere in France, Belgium and at home during 1916.

And so we continue to remember them all. If we are ever in doubt about such remembrance it is worth bearing in mind the refrain in a poem called "Aftermath" by Siegfried Sassoon who served with the Royal Welsh Fusiliers during the War:

"Have you forgotten yet?....

*But the past is just the same-
and War's a bloody game....*

Have you forgotten yet?...

*Look down, and swear by the
slain of the War that you'll
never forget.*

Have you forgotten yet?...

*Look up, and swear by the
green of the spring that you'll
never forget."*

Gareth Madge OBE

Chair, First World War Project Group

SERVICE OF COMMEMORATION

1916 ROLL OF HONOUR

6TH JANUARY
PC Walter
Archibald Stubbs
 (Merthyr/Grenadier Guards)

20TH FEBRUARY
PC David Taffinder
 (Glamorgan/
 Welsh Regiment)

7TH MARCH
PC Joseph
Patrick Deehan
 (Glamorgan/Royal Marines)

13TH MARCH
PC John Alfred
Griffiths
 (Glamorgan/
 Welsh Regiment)

8TH MAY
PC Edward
John Taylor
 (Glamorgan/Welsh Guards)

25TH MAY
PC Thomas
Voyle Morgan
 (Merthyr/Welsh Guards)

1ST JULY
PC George Henry
Lock
 (Cardiff/Welsh Guards)

PC William
James Williams
 (Glamorgan/Welsh Guards)

7TH JULY
PC Robert John Harris
 (Glamorgan/
 Welsh Regiment)

PS Richard Thomas
 (Glamorgan/
 Welsh Regiment)

PC William
Edward Trinder
 (Glamorgan/
 Welsh Regiment)

10TH JULY
PC Edward Beresford
 (Glamorgan/South
 Staffordshire Regiment)

PC William Henry
Loud
 (Glamorgan/
 Welsh Regiment)

12TH JULY
PC Richard Hamer
 (Glamorgan/Welsh Guards)

18TH JULY
PC Ernest Robert
Helson
 (Swansea/Welsh Guards)

10TH SEPTEMBER
PC Edward
John Edwards
 (Glamorgan/
 Welsh Guards)

PC Henry Morgan
Jones
 (Glamorgan/
 Welsh Guards)

PC William Jones
 (Glamorgan/
 Welsh Guards)

PC Reginald Lovis
 (Merthyr/Welsh Guards)

PC Arthur
Richmond Perkins
 (Glamorgan/
 Welsh Guards)

PC Aubrey
Alfred Smale
 (Swansea/Welsh Guards)

14TH SEPTEMBER
PC Frederick
Charles Lord
 (Glamorgan/
 Grenadier Guards)

15TH SEPTEMBER
PC George Robert
Guy
 (Glamorgan/
 Grenadier Guards)

16TH SEPTEMBER
PC John Farley
 (Glamorgan/Welsh Guards)

PC Herbert James
Fisher
 (Cardiff/Welsh Guards)

PC Augustus Harris
 (Glamorgan/Welsh Guards)

22ND SEPTEMBER
PC Arthur Pugh
 (Glamorgan/Welsh Guards)

25TH SEPTEMBER
PC Sidney Ambrose
Phelps
 (Glamorgan/Welsh Guards)

8TH DECEMBER
PC Jack Randall Birch
 (Swansea/Welsh Guards)

We remember them with pride. Yn angof ni chant fod.

Order of Service 10th November 2017

SERVICE OF COMMEMORATION

“REMEMBERED WITH PRIDE”

This year South Wales Police, as part of its commemoration of the centenary of the First World War, remembers fifteen police officers from our predecessor forces of Glamorgan, Cardiff, Swansea and Merthyr, who died during 1917.

It was another year of terrible loss of life especially during the Third Battle of Ypres (the Battle of Passchendaele) which started on 31st July and went on until 10th November, exactly one hundred years ago today.

Amongst the police officers who died in that battle was Constable Percy John Marks of the Cardiff City Police. He was from Somerset and was serving with the Welsh Guards when he was killed in action on 4th September 1917. He was 22 years of age. His sergeant wrote this letter to his father:

*“Dear Mr Marks. Just a few lines to inform you of the death of your son. Corpl Marks and myself were very good chums, because we belong to the same battalion and came together on this job. All the boys miss him because he was so cheerful. He always had a smile on his face, and I miss him very much, because he was one of the best NCO’s I had under me. The way he met his death was by a shell dropping right on top of the dugout, killing one NCO and three men. They were killed outright and buried beneath the dugout. I was out digging for him last night and this morning and I shall do my best as a soldier and a pal to see that your son and the others are buried properly. If there is anything you would like to know I shall be only too pleased to help you. Your son was a good soldier and a brave one as well. Please accept the sympathy of all the boys and myself in your great loss.
Dj Richards, Sergt.”*

The Welsh poet Ellis Humphrey Evans, Hedd Wyn, who died on the first day of the Battle of Passchendaele described such loss in his poem Rhyfel/War:

<i>Mae'r hen delynuau genid gynt Ynghrog ar gangau'r helyg draw A gwaedd y bechgyn lond y gwynt A'u gwaed yn gymysg efo'r glaw</i>	<i>The harps to which we sang are hung On willow boughs, and their refrain Drowned by the anguish of the young Whose blood is mingled with the rain</i>
--	---

Gareth Madge OBE

Chair, First World War Project Group

SERVICE OF COMMEMORATION

1917 ROLL OF HONOUR

13TH APRIL

PC William Jones Thomas (Glamorgan/Welsh Guards)

4TH MAY

PC Milton Horace Wood (Cardiff/Royal Army Medical Corps)

30TH MAY

PC Evan Jones (Glamorgan/Welsh Regiment)

26TH JUNE

PC Arnold Dickens (Glamorgan/Welsh Regiment)

24TH JULY

PC William Syphas (Glamorgan/Royal Garrison Artillery)

1ST AUGUST

PC Richard Drew (Cardiff/Welsh Regiment)

13TH AUGUST

PC Reginald Charles (Glamorgan/Welsh Regiment)

15TH AUGUST

PC Frank Coffey (Swansea/Welsh Regiment)

4TH SEPTEMBER

PC Percy John Marks (Cardiff/Welsh Guards)

17TH SEPTEMBER

PS James Robert Angus (Glamorgan/South Wales Borderers)

19TH NOVEMBER

PC Thomas Thomas (Glamorgan/Welsh Regiment)

23RD NOVEMBER

PC Arthur Hopkins (Glamorgan/Royal Welsh Fusiliers)

27TH NOVEMBER

PC John Evans (Glamorgan/Irish Guards)

1ST DECEMBER

PC Ronald Evans (Glamorgan/Welsh Guards)

9TH DECEMBER

PC Edward Price Evans (Glamorgan/Welsh Guards)

We remember them with pride. Yn angof ni chant fod.

Order of Service 9th November 2018

SERVICE OF COMMEMORATION & REMEMBRANCE

REFLECTIONS ON THE GREAT WAR

At each Remembrance Service since 2014, South Wales Police has played its part in commemorating the centenary of the First World War by including in the Service the Roll of Honour of those from its predecessor forces of Glamorgan, Cardiff, Swansea and Merthyr who gave their lives during the course of the war.

We do so again this year when we remember not only the seventeen policemen who died in 1918 but also three who died during 1919 of causes related to their war service.

This year is, of course, of special significance since at 11am on 11th November we will remember that it is one hundred years since the Armistice signed between the Allies and Germany, came into effect. Although it was not the formal end of the war- that didn't come until the Treaty of Versailles in 1919-the fighting on the Western Front and elsewhere ceased.

It was a war which caused tremendous human loss and material devastation. Millions were killed, injured or missing. Large areas of France and Belgium, in particular, suffered huge damage to their buildings and landscape.

When visiting the battlefields today, you will see row upon row of headstones, the silent reminders of the impact of the war on Great Britain and its Allies, and which

mark the last resting place of so many from our communities and beyond. There are also the huge memorials to the missing who have no known grave such as that at Thiepval on the Somme with its 72,000 names. The German cemeteries tell their own story reminding us that war takes a terrible toll regardless of who is right or wrong.

For me one event during the commemoration stands out. On 7th July 1916 the Cardiff City Battalion of the Welsh Regiment attacked Mametz Wood on the Somme. It suffered many casualties including the deaths of several Glamorgan policemen. Amongst them was Dick Thomas, a Welsh international rugby player of considerable ability.

It was a great privilege to be present at the centenary commemoration of the battle on 7th July 2016 and to stand with Dick Thomas' grandson on the very field where his grandfather was killed.

One hundred years on from the First World War we in South Wales Police, and so many others like us, have been remembering the loss of those who have gone before us. Our efforts at commemoration ensure that their sacrifice will not be forgotten.

Gareth Madge OBE

SERVICE OF COMMEMORATION & REMEMBRANCE

1918 & 1919  ROLL OF HONOUR

1918

25TH MARCH
PC John Pope
(Glamorgan/Gloucestershire Regiment)

26TH MARCH
PC William Henry Radbourne
(Glamorgan/Coldstream Guards)

28TH MARCH
PC Thomas Churches
(Glamorgan/ Welsh Guards)

10TH MAY
PC Charles Llewellyn James
(Glamorgan/Welsh Regiment)

25TH MAY
PC Edward Findlay
(Glamorgan/Bedfordshire Regiment)

11TH JUNE
PC George Wilfred Lloyd
(Glamorgan/Royal Garrison Artillery)

4TH JULY
PC Albert John Channing
(Glamorgan/Royal Engineers)

18TH JULY
PC Edward Shurey
(Glamorgan/Welsh Regiment)

21ST JULY
PC Sidney Walter Williams
(Glamorgan/Royal Garrison Artillery)

4TH SEPTEMBER
PC Richard William Brown
(Glamorgan/Royal Welsh Fusiliers)

15TH SEPTEMBER
PC Joseph Inman
(Swansea/Welsh Guards)

19TH SEPTEMBER
PC Frederick George Smith
(Glamorgan/Argyll and
Sutherland Highlanders)

20TH SEPTEMBER
PC Ernest Thomas Jones
(Glamorgan/Royal Berkshire Regiment)

27TH SEPTEMBER
PC Edwin Samuel Brown
(Cardiff/Guards Machine Gun Regiment)

14TH OCTOBER
PC William James Rapsey
(Swansea/Military Foot Police)

21ST OCTOBER
PC Albert Hollyman
(Cardiff/Welsh Guards)

11TH NOVEMBER
PC Frank Trott
(Glamorgan/Welsh Guards)

1919

6TH JANUARY
PC Henry James Porter
(Cardiff/Royal Garrison Artillery)

10TH MARCH
PC Henry George Evans
(Glamorgan/Royal Garrison Artillery)

10TH MAY
PC Patrick Shea
(Swansea/Irish Guards)

We remember them with pride. Yn angof ni chant fod.

3. CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS TO PREVIOUS BOOKLETS

As a result of further checking of our source material, we have identified a few errors in our previous booklets. The relevant corrections are set out below.

1914

10th November:

Alfred Frederick Leonard:

His force number should be 41 and not 44.

1915

8th October: William Holland:

His force number should be 75 and not 78.

1916

20th February: David Taffinder:

In the booklet he is referred to as having “died of wounds” whereas “Soldiers Died in the Great War” and the Army Medal Records show his death as “killed in action”. The Roll of Honour which we have subsequently produced follows the latter.

1918

21st July: Sidney Walter Williams:

His army service number should be 180142 not 180347.

6th January 1919: Henry James Porter:

His army service number should be 161473 not 16147.

4. ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHS

Since our previous booklets were produced, we have acquired some additional photographs of police officers which we now include with references to the booklets in which their stories appear.

1914

**SIDNEY WILLIAM
GOODLIFFE**

(DIED 12TH NOVEMBER 1914)



1915

**FREDERICK
RICHARDS**

(DIED 7TH AUGUST 1915)



1916

**WILLIAM EDWARD
TRINDER**

(DIED 7TH JULY 1916)



1917

WILLIAM JONES THOMAS

(DIED 13TH APRIL 1917)

As mentioned in the Introduction we were pleased to be able to assist in a commemoration for William in April 2018. As a result, the family kindly made available to us the photographs which we are now able to reproduce.

The one below was taken at the family home at Pantglas Farm in Llanedeyrn (where the Waitrose store now stands) in 1893. William is in the centre standing between his parents John and Ann. Behind him is his sister Elizabeth, and his mother is holding his baby brother, Rowland. His brother Edmund stands beside his father whilst his brother George is beside his mother.





A Royal Life Saving Society medal presented to William in 1910.



William on guard duty with the Welsh Guards outside Buckingham Palace.

1918

THOMAS BEALE

MC



1918

ARTHUR GEORGE HAM

DCM, MM



5. ANOTHER CASUALTY OF THE WAR

Our researches have enabled us to tell the stories of 93 police officers from our predecessor forces who died as a consequence of the war.

Ninety of them are commemorated on memorials of different kinds:

- 58 are named on the Glamorgan Police War Memorial at Police Headquarters in Bridgend and the same names also appear on a Memorial Scroll which is currently displayed in the Force Heritage Centre.
- 16 names are on the Cardiff City Police Memorial in the Cardiff Bay Police Station.
- 10 names are to be found on the Swansea Borough Police Memorial at the Central Police Station in Swansea.
- 6 names appear on a Memorial Plaque to the Merthyr Tydfil Borough Police officers in the Merthyr Police Station.

Details regarding a further three police officers who served with the Glamorgan Constabulary and who died came to light during the course of our project:

- PC 77 Arthur Richmond Perkins (1916 Booklet)
- PC 118 Thomas Churches (1918 Booklet)
- PC 324 Frank Trott (1918 Booklet)

Whilst Perkins and Churches served with the Glamorgan Constabulary during the war, they had both left it before they joined the army. Trott left the Glamorgan force in 1915 to join up and returned to serve with it before the end of the war following wounds sustained on active service.

Our further researches since the production of the annual booklets have revealed details of another Glamorgan policeman, Thomas William Hiscock, who died during the war. He had actually resigned from the police in April 1914 and, therefore, does not appear on the Glamorgan Constabulary Roll of Honour or War Memorial. Nevertheless, we take this opportunity to tell his story.

**PC 261 THOMAS
WILLIAM HISCOCK**
GLAMORGAN CONSTABULARY
SERGEANT 1975 I
29TH BRIGADE AND "C" BATTERY
123RD BRIGADE ROYAL FIELD
ARTILLERY



Thomas was born on 11th May 1886 (according to police records but on 11th May 1887 according to other records) in the small village of All Cannings which is some four miles to the east of Devizes in Wiltshire.

His parents were Thomas William and Fanny (nee Cowdry).

Thomas was baptised at the Parish Church of All Saints in All Cannings on 31st July 1887. His father's occupation

is stated to be as a labourer. Thomas later attended the village's Church of England school.

At the census of 1891 Thomas is shown as living with his grandfather, Harry, an agricultural labourer and widower, and his three daughters and son at Thorncroft, All Cannings.

Thomas was still living with his grandfather in All Cannings at the census of 1901. However, the household now consisted also of Thomas' mother, Fanny, and Thomas' brother Henry, then aged nine, and his sisters Ethel and Mary aged eight and fifteen respectively. Interestingly Thomas' great grandmother, Jane, was living there as well, then aged ninety one having been born in 1810, and stated to be in receipt of parochial relief. Thomas, then thirteen years of age, was stated to be a yardman on a farm whilst his grandfather, then aged sixty six, was still an agricultural labourer.

By the census of 1911 Thomas' mother had moved to live at 109, Cardiff Road, Aberaman, Aberdare. She was stated to be a widow and residing in the household with her were her son Henry, then nineteen years of age and employed as a coal miner, her daughter Ethel aged fifteen, who was described as a domestic

servant, and another son James Phillimore, aged eight, who was in school. Thomas' grandfather lived there as well, then aged seventy six. It's not known where Thomas was living at that time but it is likely that he was in the army.

In any event, Thomas joined the Glamorgan Constabulary on 11th January 1913 and was stationed for a time at Bargoed. He had previously been employed as a collier.

Thomas enlisted in the army at Aberdare and went to France shortly after the outbreak of war in August 1914. Police records show that prior to joining the Glamorgan Constabulary he had served for just over eight years in the Royal Garrison Artillery. It was presumably as a reservist that he was, therefore, recalled to the colours. He had resigned from the police on 17th April 1914.

His army medal records show that in addition to the British War Medal and the Victory Medal he was awarded the 1914 Star which was given to those members of the army who were serving during the period from the commencement of the war in August 1914 to November 1914.

Thomas is shown as having initially served with 29th Brigade of the Royal

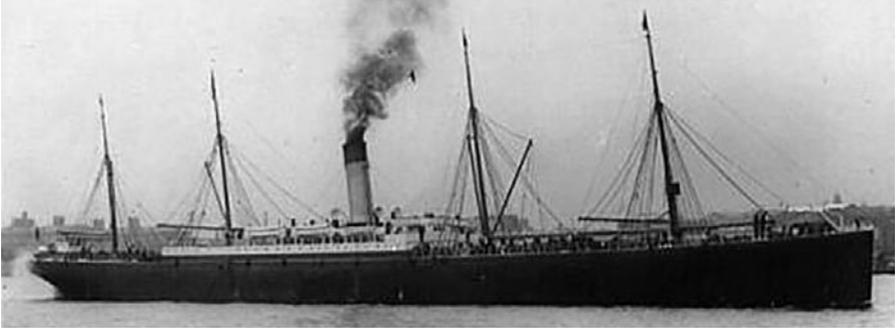
Field Artillery which was made up of three batteries and served as the Divisional Artillery for the 4th Division, a regular division of the army.

The Division was initially held back from moving to France with the rest of the British Expeditionary Force because of the fear of invasion of Britain by German forces. However, this decision was reversed and it proceeded to France.

The War Diary of the 29th Brigade records that they left Southampton at 7pm on 22nd August on board the *SS Armenian*. This was a British cargo ship built in 1895 which saw service as a transport in the Second Boer War. She was again used as a transport during the First World War. On 28th June 1915 she was sunk by a German U Boat off Cornwall where she still lies. Twenty nine members of the mostly American crew were lost along with over 1,400 mules.

After arriving in Le Havre disembarkation was complete by 6pm on 23rd August and the Brigade moved off to take up their positions. They were in action on 26th August and then took part in the major battles which followed in 1914 and 1915.

At some stage Thomas transferred to "C" Battery, 123rd Brigade Royal Field



The SS Armenian.

Artillery which operated in support of the 37th Division which was in France from July 1915. Each battery was equipped with four 18 pounder field guns.

The *Western Mail* of 31st December 1915 carried the photograph of Thomas together with a Lance Corporal Davies which appears on the next page.

An 18 pounder gun of a field battery in action in 1915 (© IWM (HU108106)).



The caption to the photograph reads as follows:

“Lance-corporal Thomas Davies (sitting) of the 1st Somersetshire Light Infantry (11th Brigade, 4th Division), and Sergeant T.W. Hiscock, R.F.A. (C Battery, 123rd Brigade, 37th Division), who are home on seven days’ leave, after being on active service since the outbreak of war. Lance-corporal Davies was a member of the Cardiff City Police Force, and lives at Spring Gardens-place, Cardiff. Hiscock was formerly in the Glamorgan County Police, and resides at Regent-street, Aberaman”.

The following report regarding the two men is contained in the same newspaper. Whilst it deals mostly with Davies it’s worth reproducing in full as a vivid account of the early stages of the war:

NARROW ESCAPES

**“Experiences of two Welsh soldiers
Fought from the beginning and
both returned without a scratch”**

“Two more Welsh members of that gallant expeditionary force sent over by Great Britain to France at the commencement of the great war are this week enjoying their first visit home since the outbreak of hostilities. They are Lance-corporal Thomas Davies, a constable in the Cardiff City Police Force, whose home is at Spring gardens-place, and sergeant T.W. Hiscock, R.F.A. of Aberaman, who was a constable in



the Glamorgan Police Force, stationed at Bargoed. Through all the encounters of the past seventeen months both soldiers have escaped without a scratch, and when a Western Mail reporter interviewed them at Davies’s home he found they had much that was interesting to relate concerning their long sojourn in France and Belgium.

Davies was a reservist of the Prince Albert’s Somerset Light Infantry, and, called up on August 4, went over to France on September 10.

'I have been out there ever since,' he said. 'I have been through all the campaign, and I am one of the few who have come through it all without a scratch. And it has been a case of sheer good fortune throughout. Obviously I wasn't made to die in France! Oh yes, I have had many narrow escapes. One time I was in an engagement at St Ives, in Northern France, the enemy having made a great attempt to capture our trenches and was fighting for dear life. The only matter one thinks of in tight corners like that is to preserve oneself, and I was simply bowling as many men out as I could just when they rushed along. During a short break I put my hand in my greatcoat pocket and pulled out my leather purse. It was clean cut through; two notes were also cut, and a French coin was badly battered. What had happened was that a piece of shrapnel had struck the purse and had been 'turned' by the coin. But for that it would have been in my side. Yet I knew nothing at all about it at the time. Here you will see it for yourself,' exclaimed the speaker, as he handed around the purse and contents for inspection.

HAD TO BE DUG OUT

'Yes I've been in many tight corners,' continued Davies, 'and I've had hand-to-hand fights, and nearly every other sort of fight with the enemy, and, as I say,

I've come through it all. At St Ives I was lying on one occasion asleep when a German shell came and completely destroyed the trench in which I was stationed. I had to be dug out of the debris, and my rifle was broken in two, yet I personally escaped without a scratch, and was in the second battle of Ypres when the Canadians had such heavy losses, and when the London (Territorial) Rifle Brigade made their name. It was one of the finest Territorial regiments I have ever seen in my life. That was an awful time. I really cannot describe it to you. My experience? All I can say is that I was jolly glad to get out of it. It was a week's hard and continuous fighting, day and night, with nothing but the perpetual roar of shells around us. We have held that place until now against everything the Germans have tried to do, yet they are still pegging away there.'

'OUT TO WIN'

'What is the spirit of the boys out there.'
'One of the best,' was the prompt reply. 'We are out to win, and we shall win. We have got the men and the material now, and we shall come through victorious. Some of the men, however, are disgusted at the conduct of some of the young shirkers here at home who are not doing their duty. The old soldier is for compulsory service in such cases.

I personally am a married man with three children, and coming back after seventeen months' fighting I see the same 'corner boys' hanging around the streets as were here when I went away. I submit that that is not good enough.'

FIRST TASTE OF GAS

Sergeant Hiscock went out to France on August 22, 1914, and, like his friend, although he has been through the thick of the fight, he has sustained no injury. Singularly enough, he best remembers the notable incidents which occurred early in the campaign.

'Outside St. Quentin,' he remarked, 'we in our brigade fought seven hours and a half in the open. It was a pitched battle, 'some' fight, I can assure you. We waited long there for reinforcements that never came. If they had we should not be where we are now. It was largely responsible for the great retirement.'

After detailing the campaign up to the second battle of Ypres the sergeant made a reference to the German gas attack of May 24-so well remembered by the 'boys' who were there to suffer its effects.

*'Several were suffering from the fumes,' he said, 'before we knew what the cause was. Fellows were cursing each other or asking, 'What sort of ***** tobacco are you smoking?' Then we discovered*

the cause of the trouble. From two o'clock that morning to seven at night we kept up a continuous fire against a great enemy advance. We had to go at it 'hammer and tongs.' I fired 1,500 rounds from my gun, and exhausted my stock. We were in an advanced position, and had to retire a little, but quite suddenly next day a German shell came and destroyed our gun. It was blown to pieces, two of my men were badly wounded, and I was pitched into the air, alighting on my forehead, but the extent of my damage was a nasty swelling. That was a 'narrow shave.'

Both the non-comms have a deep admiration for the Belgians-civil and military-and are extremely grateful for the many kindnesses extended to them by the few Belgian civilians who are left in the territory in the allies' occupation. Like Lance-corporal Davies, Sergeant Hiscock has no doubt about an allied victory, and says all the troops are determined to achieve that result."

The action on 24th May 1915 referred to by Thomas in the newspaper interview is confirmed by entries in the 29th Brigade's War Diary.

As mentioned above, Thomas transferred to "C" Battery of 123rd Brigade Royal Field Artillery. The 37th Division, which it supported, took

part in the Battle of the Ancre in November 1916, the final phase of the Battle of the Somme. The War Diary of the 123rd Brigade gives an indication of its part during this period and afterwards:

“1 to 13.11.16 The Batteries of the Brigade remained in action taking part in preliminary bombardments

13.11.16 On the 13th they were engaged in the battle of the Ancre. With a view to future advances a reconnaissance was made by the Brigade and Battery Commanders during the morning but was held up by hostile rifle fire from an enemy strong point. Subsequently owing to the enemy being in occupation of high ground S of Grandcourt it was found impossible to bring the batteries into the forward positions selected...

21.11.16 A party of gunners under 2Lieut H. Langford...with a covering party of the Border Regt 11 Division, brought in under heavy fire a German 77mm gun from a point in No Man's Land about 100 yards from the German Line and 500 yards from our front line.”

It appears that sometime during December 1916 or early January 1917, Thomas was wounded since army records show that he died of wounds at the 13th General Hospital in Boulogne on 10th January 1917.

The only reference to casualties in the War Diary of the 123rd Brigade during the above period is the following.

At that time, it was at Englebelmer, near Albert in the region of the Somme:

“1.12.16-15.12.16

The Brigade remained in action until 15.12.16. During the latter part of this time the Batteries were under fairly consistent shell fire and sustained some casualties. The total losses of the Brigade during the operations on the Ancre were 4 officers wounded. OR 2 killed and 15 wounded.”

It may be that Thomas was one of the Other Ranks who were wounded.

Thomas is buried in a Commonwealth War Graves Commission grave at Boulogne Eastern Cemetery. It contains 5577 Commonwealth burials of the First World War. Unusually, the headstones in the



cemetery are laid flat due to the sandy soil.

Also buried there is PC 363 Richard Hamer of the Glamorgan Constabulary. As Private 1672 of

1st Battalion, Welsh Guards, he died of wounds on 12th July 1916. He was 24 years of age and came from Aberdare. (See the booklet for 1916).

Boulogne Eastern Cemetery.



6. MORE GALLANTRY AWARDS

We included in the booklets for 1917 and 1918 details of gallantry awards which had been made to police officers during the War.

We restricted those details to awards of the Distinguished Service Order, Military Cross, Distinguished Conduct Medal and Military Medal. This was because these were the awards in respect of which the greatest amount of detail was available.

Since completing the previous booklets, we have identified further awards of this kind and we now take the opportunity to provide details of the recipients of them.

WILLIAM FRANCIS BURRIDGE

PC 131

SWANSEA BOROUGH POLICE
COMPANY SERGEANT MAJOR 13746
9TH BATTALION
ROYAL WELSH FUSILIERS

DISTINGUISHED CONDUCT MEDAL



William was born at Llansamlet, Swansea, on 12th January 1886, the son of Joseph and Ellen Burridge. At the census of 1911 he was living at 8 Cwmlan Terrace, Landore, in Swansea with his wife, Frances, and his mother.

William had become a member of the Swansea Borough Police as Constable 131 on 11th February 1910 having previously been employed as a stone cutter. In April 1911 he was commended for his alertness and intelligence in carrying out an arrest for the Glamorgan Constabulary.

In September 1914, he and other officers joined the 9th Battalion of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers and went to France with them on 19th July 1915.

He saw service with the Battalion for the rest of the war. They were engaged in many of the war's major battles on the Western Front including those at Loos in 1915, the Somme in 1916, Ypres in 1917 and those during the final phases of the war in 1918.

William rose in the ranks during his service becoming a Company Sergeant Major and Temporary Regimental Sergeant Major.

In 1918 William was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal the citation for which was:

"For conspicuous gallantry and devotion

to duty and consistent good work during a long period. His powers of organisation and personal example have been invaluable, and his courage and devotion to duty most marked."

(Supplement to the Edinburgh Gazette 2nd January 1918)

In 1918 William was also awarded the Croix de Guerre by the King of the Belgians (*London Gazette* 12th July 1918). According to the *Cambria Daily Leader* of 26th July 1918 this was for "gallantry and resourcefulness in rallying his men under great difficulties."

William was demobilised on 14th January 1919 after which he returned to police duties in Swansea.

The *Cambria Daily Leader* of 17th January reported:

"At the Swansea Police Court, on Friday, seven ex-policemen, including Co-Sergt-Major Burrige, were re-sworn. Co-Sergt-Major Burrige has been awarded the D.C.M. and the Belgian Croix de Guerre for gallantry in the field.

Mr. Gwilym Morgan (chairman), congratulating Burrige, said he was a great credit to the Swansea Police Force, to the town, and to himself.

C.S.M. Burrige was also congratulated by Dr. Nelson Jones, Mr. Dd Griffiths, Mr. J.W. Thorpe, and Mr. Hy. Thompson



*Royal Welsh Fusiliers with goat mascot on the march, Winchester, 1915.
(© IWM (Q53610)).*

(personally and on behalf of the legal profession)."

William was promoted to sergeant in 1919, and received the following recommendation dated 17th December 1918 from Major H. Lloyd Williams, Commanding 9th Battalion, Royal Welsh Fusiliers:

"The fact that he rose to the rank of Regimental Sergeant Major, and was frequently urged to accept a commission, is sufficiently indicative of the qualities of RSM Burrige as a soldier and as a man, and I thoroughly recommend him for a position of the highest trust and responsibility."

Sadly, William died of tuberculosis in 1932 at the age of 46.

ALBERT EDWARD HEARD

PC 575

GLAMORGAN CONSTABULARY

SERGEANT 19296

SOMERSET LIGHT INFANTRY AND
SERGEANT 3335, 15TH BATTALION,
MACHINE GUN CORPS

MILITARY MEDAL



Albert was originally from Somerset having been born in Minehead on 17th October 1889.

He joined the Glamorgan Constabulary on 12th September 1914 having previously been employed as a collier, and served until July 1915 when he resigned to join the army.

He enlisted on 2nd July and was initially in the Somerset Light Infantry. A newspaper report of the time said

that his brother, Lance Sergeant Thomas William Heard, was also a member of the regiment. Another brother, Henry, was said to be serving with the 16th, (Cardiff City) Battalion, of the Welsh Regiment.

At some stage Albert transferred to the Machine Gun Corps, serving with the 15th Battalion. Whilst serving with them he was awarded the Military Medal as confirmed by the *Supplement to the London Gazette* of 27th June 1918. No further details are known of what led to the award.

Albert was discharged from the army on 19th December 1918.



Albert's brother, Henry.

WALTER CLIFFORD SANDERS

PC 688 AND 47

GLAMORGAN CONSTABULARY

CORPORAL 1895

7TH BATTALION, WELSH REGIMENT

AND LANCE SERGEANT 56905,

14TH BATTALION,

ROYAL WELSH FUSILIERS

MILITARY MEDAL

Walter was born on 6th April 1893 in Cardiff and was employed as a wagon repairer before joining the Glamorgan Constabulary on 7th September 1912. He served for a time at Aberavon.

He resigned from the Force on 15th January 1915 in order to join the army, and three days later he enlisted in the 7th (Reserve) (Cyclist) Battalion of the

Welsh Regiment where he became Corporal 1895.

He transferred to the 14th Battalion of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers on 29th July 1916. He became Lance Sergeant 56905 and saw service with the Battalion in France from July 1916 to the end of the war. During this time, he was awarded the Military Medal for bravery as confirmed by the *Supplement to the London Gazette* of 23rd July 1919.

Police records show that he re-joined the Glamorgan Constabulary on 1st February 1919 before resigning on 3rd May that year.

Soldiers from the 7th (Cyclist) Battalion, Welsh Regiment at Llantwit Major (National Museum Wales/Peoples' Collection Wales).



7. THOSE WHO ALSO SERVED

As part of our project we have gathered together a considerable amount of information on those who died and those who were recognised for their gallantry and we have reflected that in the booklets we have produced.

However, our researches have also included many policemen who served during the war, who survived and who we have not previously covered.

We are anxious to tell the stories of as many of these men as we can but we recognise that in some instances the information we have is relatively sparse. For reasons of space, accuracy and interest in what can be said, we have, therefore, confined what appears in this section to those about whom we feel we can say the most.

All of them, except one, come from the Glamorgan Constabulary. This is inevitable since it was by far and away the biggest of the forces in South Wales at the time of the First World War and, accordingly, contributed the most men to the armed forces. Indeed, whilst exact figures are not available, it seems that several hundred from Glamorgan served.

We hope that what follows adds to what we have previously done in painting the picture of what the policemen of South Wales contributed during the war.

“A shower of shells”- the retreat from Mons

PC 643 HERBERT BESLEY
GLAMORGAN CONSTABULARY
ACTING SERGEANT MAJOR 39935
SOMERSET LIGHT INFANTRY



Herbert was from Taunton in Somerset where he was born in May 1887.

He was employed as a labourer before he joined the Glamorgan Constabulary on 18th March 1913. During his police service he was stationed at Penarth.

Herbert had previously served with the Somerset Light Infantry for over seven years and, following the declaration of war on 4th August 1914, he left the police upon being recalled to the army as a reservist.

He went to France with the Somerset Light Infantry on 21st August 1914 and during the war he served in the Regiment's 1st and 8th Battalions and the 45th Training Reserve Battalion. He achieved several promotions up to acting Sergeant Major.

He was wounded early in the war when he took part in the fighting during the retreat from Mons as the following report from the *Western Mail* of 4th September 1914 shows:

**“SHOWER OF SHELLS
PENARTH POLICEMAN IN
THE FIGHTING LINE
THRILLING EXPERIENCE
AT MONS**

A thrilling story of the fighting at Mons was told to a Western Mail reporter by Lance-corporal Herbert Besley, of the Somerset Light Infantry, who is among the wounded in the Bristol Royal Infirmary. Besley is a native of Williton, Somerset, and before going to the war was a member of the Glamorgan County Police, stationed at Penarth. He joined the regiment as a Reservist a few days after war was declared, and arrived at the front on the morning of August 24. Fighting had commenced, and the Somerset Light Infantry were engaged at the extreme end of the British left flank.

‘The shells came upon us like a great hailstorm’ said Besley, ‘and they did

great damage. The conflict lasted all day. We remained in the trenches all night, and were set upon again early the next day (Tuesday). The numbers were again overwhelming, and as the French had not come up the order was given to retire. The movement was carried out in an orderly way, and our halting place at night was the village of Lenz. Here the regiment-reduced to about an eighth of its original number-billeted.

FIGHTING RENEWED

Almost before daylight the alarm was sounded, and the combat was renewed with greater fury than ever. So huge was the oncoming body that we were forced to retire. We reached the top of a hill a little to the south of Lenz, and passed down the declivity on the south side pursued by the Germans, who sent after us a tremendous shower of shells, which created great havoc. The ground was covered with killed and wounded men.

‘Whilst making my way down the hill I came across an artillery man with a bad shell wound in the head. I picked him up and ran as fast as I could with him in my arms. I had not gone far when a shell came along and blew my wounded comrade to pieces. It carried away my knapsack, knocked the cap from my head, forced my rifle from my hand, and struck me in the back. I became unconscious, and knew nothing more until I found myself in the field hospital.’”

Evidently, Herbert recovered and resumed his army service. *The Penarth Times* of 2nd December 1915 carried this report:

“Sergt. H. Besley, of the 8th Somerset Light Infantry, who for some time was a constable in this town, writing to friends says he has been promoted to sergeant.....He has been in the trenches for some time, and says that it is very cold there just now, and ‘a bit

like when I used to go on duty on a winter’s night near the Ship Hotel, but with this difference, that here we have swarms of rats and mice running about; but as the old saying goes ‘we clench our teeth and smile.’”

Herbert served until the end of the war and was demobilised on 12th January 1919. The following week he re-joined the Glamorgan Constabulary and served until he retired.



British infantry during the retreat from Mons (© IWM).

**Cavalryman and mounted
policeman**

PS 33 PERCY BOTTING
MERTHYR TYDFIL BOROUGH
POLICE

LANCE CORPORAL 6241,
5TH (ROYAL IRISH) LANCERS
ACTING SERGEANT P5282,
MILITARY MOUNTED POLICE



(Merthyr Tydfil Historical Society)

Percy had a long and interesting military and police career.

He was born on 28th March 1882 in Brighton, Sussex. His father, Henry, was a gardener and not long after Percy was born the family moved to Cheltenham since the census of 1891 shows them living at Milsom Street in the town.

His father was the vergger of the parish church of St. Mary there for twenty

five years, and when he died in 1913 the *Cheltenham Chronicle*, in reporting on his funeral, paid tribute to his work on the land and with the church, as a man:

"...who, civil and obliging, but with a touch of old-time country independence of character, was ever to be found happy in the labours of his office, which included the care of the churchyard. How well the latter part of his work was performed was evident to everyone by the neatness of the grass and the lime tree avenues. Henry Botting and his scythe was as familiar in the old churchyard as its cross. He was an artist with his scythe, with which he had done doughty deeds on the hill farms in days when the scythe had not almost disappeared before the mowing machine, and like a true artist he resented the idea of his skill being supplanted by a mere machine,"

As for Percy, it seems that he joined the army when he was just fourteen years of age and saw service with the Royal Field Artillery and then the 9th (Queen's Royal) Lancers in the Anglo-Boer War. It was during this campaign that Percy was wounded as reported by the *Cheltenham Chronicle* of 27th April 1901:

"His many friends in Cheltenham will regret to learn that Private Percy

Botting, of the 9th Lancers, was dangerously wounded at Krugersdorp on Wednesday last week, when Lieut. Macdonald and three others of the same regiment were killed. Private Botting, who is a son of the verger of Cheltenham Parish Church, has received his first wound after eighteen months' warfare, for his was one of the first regiments to be sent to the front. Along with Lieut. Theobald, another Cheltonian in the same regiment, he served under General French in the actions that led to the relief of Kimberley, and throughout the campaign has seen something like forty engagements. Except for a slight injury when thrown from his horse, Private Botting escaped without a scratch until he was wounded last week, and has never had occasion to visit the hospital for sickness."



Percy with the 9th Lancers during the Boer War.

In due course Percy left the army and joined the Glamorgan Constabulary in March 1903 as PC 445. He served for just six months before resigning in September 1903. He then re-joined in November that year as PC 156. During his service with the Glamorgan force he was stationed at Barry, Penarth, Pontypridd and Merthyr. When the latter became a county borough in 1908 Percy transferred to its new police force, was promoted to sergeant and put in charge of the force's mounted section.

The census of 1911 shows him, his wife and young son and daughter, living at the police station at Brecon Road in Merthyr.

After the outbreak of the First World War he was recalled to the colours and went to France with the 5th (Royal Irish) Lancers on 15th August 1914, just eleven days after Britain's declaration of war on Germany.

The *Merthyr Pioneer* of 14th November 1914 reproduced a letter which Percy had written to Inspector Starr of the NSPCC:

"I am still in the land of the living, and in good health. Thanks very much for your kind letter and the pleasant surprise of cigarettes, which I received quite safely. Yes, we can manage to

smoke and shoot at the same time. I have been in the trenches now for eight days, and have not seen my horse since, but he is quite safe behind-having a rest, which he wanted very badly. It is very cold out here at night, and we have had a drop of rain, but the boys of the 'Fighting Fifth' are all merry and bright. They are a happy lot are the Irish boys-a dare-devil lot. I have not met any of the local boys yet. Scott's (a local P.C.) regiment are on our right about two miles away. We had a hot time in the retirement from Mons. I was in that show and on the general advance and I am still pegging away at them. They are about 4000 yards in front of us as I am writing, just having a pot shot at them, and they are doing the same as each one pops his head up."

At the end of 1914, several newspapers carried references to a diary kept by Percy. The following appeared in the *Liverpool Echo* on 31st December:

"Police-sergeant Percy Botting of the Merthyr Constabulary, who has returned home from the front for three days, kept a diary of events. An entry for December 7 read:

'Sir John French visited us and said 'As an old cavalry man, it gives me great pleasure to be your Commander-in-

Chief. I remember you in South Africa, especially at Elandlangte. You have been called upon to do what cavalry have never been asked to do before; but you have surprised the world. Not only by doing your own work, but also, as infantry, you have done some really splendid work in the trenches-in fact everywhere. You have officers second to none, and the men of the 5th Lancers have always been known to follow them into any kind of danger.

You know how heavy your casualties have been, especially officers. It is their place to lead, even to death; but they have done it, and I trust that whatever may be in front of you, you will give of your best."

In October 1916 Percy transferred to the Military Mounted Police attached to the 34th Division and continued to serve until he was discharged from the army in November 1918.

He returned to the Merthyr Police on 25th January 1919 and continued to perform duty as a mounted officer. He retired in July 1934 after 31 years service.



Percy (sitting first left) with other Merthyr police officers. (Merthyr Tydfil Historical Society)



Percy as a mounted police officer. (Merthyr Tydfil Historical Society)



Percy in later years as a police officer.



The Merthyr Old Contemptibles. (Merthyr Tydfil Historical Society)

For several years he acted as organising secretary of the Merthyr Armistice Parade and was President and founder of the Merthyr Old Contemptibles Association, those men from the regular and reserve armies who had formed the British Expeditionary Force during the early stages of the war.

Percy also took a keen interest in the Boy Scout movement and was assistant district commissioner for Merthyr.

After retiring from the police, Percy moved to live in Kent and the Western

Mail of 27th November 1934 drew attention to his involvement in a Royal occasion:

“Mr. Percy Botting, an ex-sergeant of the Merthyr Borough Police, will serve in a party of 25 Kent ex-Service men selected by the British Legion to act as a guard of honour at the wedding of the Duke of Kent and Princess Marina.

Mr. Botting, who served in the Great War and the South African War, now lives at Canterbury.”

Percy died in 1971.

The Meritorious Service Medal

**PC 706 FRANCIS FRANK
HILL**

**GLAMORGAN CONSTABULARY
ACTING COMPANY SERGEANT**

MAJOR 8223

2ND BATTALION,

WELSH REGIMENT



Frank was from Cardiff where he was born on 12th July 1886.

He was in the army for nine years, with the Welsh Regiment. According to a newspaper report he had seen active service during the South African war.

He joined the Glamorgan Constabulary in February 1913. His occupation on joining was stated to be as a groom, and at one time he was stationed at Treherbert.

After the outbreak of the First World War in August 1914, he was recalled to the colours to serve with the 2nd Battalion of the Welsh Regiment.

This was one of the Regiment's two regular battalions and Frank went with it to France on 13th August, just nine days after the British declaration of war.

The History of the Regiment in the First World War describes the early situation for the 2nd Battalion at this time:

"The 2nd Welch were at Aldershot, carrying out Brigade Training with the 3rd Brigade, when the storm was gathering, and on 1st August were ordered back to their peace station, Bordon. On 4th August mobilisation was ordered. The battalion was very much below establishment, and a considerable percentage of the men were too young to take the field. In all, 571 N.C.O.s and men from the Reserve were required to complete establishment. These Reservists had not sufficient time to get physically fit before being called on to bear the strain of active service, entailing long marches with full equipment..."

On 12th August the Battalion reached Southampton in two trains, and embarked on the 'Braemar Castle', arriving next day at Havre at 6am"

The Battalion, as part of the 3rd Brigade of the 1st Division of the British Expeditionary Force, was involved in many of the key battles on the Western Front during the war

including the Battle of Mons and subsequent retreat (1914), The Battle of Loos (1915), The Battle of the Somme (1916), The Third Battle of Ypres (Passchendaele) (1917) and the battles of the last stages of the war in 1918.

During 1916, Frank's service was recognised as he was Mentioned in Despatches and on 18th October the *London Gazette* confirmed the award to him of the Meritorious Service Medal. This was a medal which recognised valuable non-combat service by all ranks other than officers.



Meritorious Service Medal.

Frank re-joined the Glamorgan Constabulary on 11th January 1919, following his demobilisation from the army.

The Drill Sergeant

PC 724 WILLIAM ROBERT HUMPHREYS

GLAMORGAN CONSTABULARY

ACTING REGIMENTAL

SERGEANT MAJOR 47459

9TH BATTALION,

WELSH REGIMENT



William was born on 12th August 1889 in Cardiff and joined the Glamorgan Constabulary on 2nd January 1912, his occupation on joining being given as a cook. At one time he was stationed at Porthcawl.

Before joining the police, he had served in the army for three years from 1907. As a reservist he was recalled following the outbreak of war during which he served with 3rd Battalion, Grenadier Guards, and the 16th (Cardiff City) and 9th Battalions of the Welsh Regiment.

He went to France on 23rd November 1914 and during his army service was promoted to Acting Regimental Sergeant Major in the Welsh Regiment.

He was also wounded on more than one occasion as the following newspaper report shows:

“Regimental-Sergeant Major W.R. Humphreys, who before the war, was a member of the Glamorgan County Police, stationed at Porthcawl, is now lying seriously wounded at East Leeds Military Hospital. He went to France early in the war with the Grenadier Guards. He was wounded and invalided home. On his recovery he was promoted sergeant-major of the Cardiff City Battalion, and on being invalided home again and undergoing a serious operation he was again transferred to another battalion of the Welsh

Regiment. His brother is serving with the Royal Field Artillery in Egypt. His mother resides at 2, Oxford-place, Cardiff.”

William was discharged from the army on 16th November 1918 and re-joined the Glamorgan Constabulary on 26th July 1919.

In due course, he was promoted and became Sergeant 182. In that rank he performed duties as a drill and fitness instructor. Ronald Baker, who in later years became an Assistant Chief Constable of Glamorgan and the Deputy Chief Constable of South Wales Police, joined the Glamorgan Constabulary in July 1925. In the *Glamorgan Police Magazine* for the Summer of 1964, he provided a vivid picture of “Old Bill Humphreys”, or “OBH”, as the following extracts demonstrate:

*East Leeds
Military Hospital.*



“He was discharged from the army... in 1919 still not fully recovered from severe abdominal wounds, and was accepted back in the Force in the following October as fit for indoor duties only. It was not until September, 1924, that he was certified fit for full duties, though for some years he had been acting as drill, swimming and P.T. instructor to recruits at Headquarters, then in Canton, Cardiff...”

The first meeting with Sergeant Humphreys would be, of course, on the day appointed for examination, but on such an occasion he would be the recruiting officer par excellence, militarily efficient but not militant, considerate and almost paternal in his attitude towards the young men whom he was meeting for the first time. This, in fact, was the real Bill Humphreys, a kindly and sympathetic man. The other Bill Humphreys, the rip roaring R.S.M., was merely a part he played (and enjoyed) as a means to achieving the transformation on the Guards pattern of most unlikely human material into smart, disciplined men fit to maintain the high traditions of the Glamorgan Police...

But despite his humour and the medical certificate of 1924, O.B.H. was not a fit man. He suffered considerably from the effects of the war wounds, and on many mornings it took all his will-power to drag himself to the parade ground, though

from his department and bearing there, no-one could guess that it was so.”

Mr. Baker’s article ends on a sad note:

“It was a matter of great regret to all those who got to know him the hard way, that after all the years of devoted service to the Force, he was allowed to leave in 1945 with no more than the formality of a handshake and an expression of good wishes from the Chief Inspector in charge at Barry Dock when he called to say goodbye on 31st August, 1945, the last day of his service.”

Death of an officer

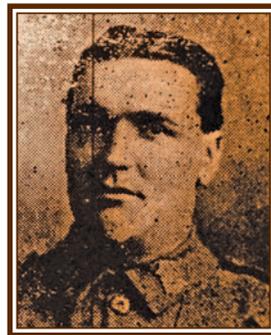
PC 723 CHARLES HENRY HUTCHINGS

GLAMORGAN CONSTABULARY

SERGEANT 23849

16TH BATTALION,

WELSH REGIMENT



Charles was born on 28th October 1891 in Penarth and later attended school at Albert Road in the town.

He appears to have worked as a dock labourer before joining the Glamorgan Constabulary on 12th December 1911 as PC 723. Prior to the First World War he was stationed at Whitchurch in Cardiff.

Charles was an active sportsman. The *Western Mail* of 4th March 1914 referred to a police boxing competition at the Park Hall in Cardiff in which Charles and Sergeant Dick Thomas (see the booklet relating to him) took part. In relation to Charles it was stated that:

“The semi-final between Police-constable Charles Hutchings (Whitchurch) and Police-constable Knill (Newport) produced a stern contest. Knill scored well with the left but towards the close of the round Hutchings did excellent two-handed work. There was little between the men at the close, but Hutchings obtained the decision.”

Unfortunately, Charles was unable to progress to the final round as he had injured his wrists in the match against Knill. Dick Thomas, who he would have met in the final, was therefore declared the winner and was presented with a silver cup.

According to another newspaper report, Charles also played rugby for the Glamorgan Constabulary, Penarth,

Cardiff and the Glamorgan County team, cricket for the police and took part in water polo matches in Penarth.

An incident involving Charles and another Glamorgan policeman, Edward Shurey, who was to serve in the army during the war and was, sadly, to die, (see the booklet for 1918) was reported in the *Cambria Daily Leader* of 13th April 1914 under the heading “Religious Maniac”:

“Mr. Turnbull, of Heath House, near Cardiff, was aroused one morning by wild ringing of the bells at the front and rear of his residence, and by pebbles being thrown at the windows. Looking out he saw a man, who, it was evident by his action and demeanour, was beside himself. Consequently, Mr. Turnbull, telephoned to the City and County Police.

P.C. Hutchings and P.C. Shurey, of Whitchurch, were the first on the scene, and after a search they found the man on the Cardiff side of the Heath Wood, accompanied by a black retriever dog, which he had loosened from the chain when at the Heath House.

When approached he seemed very wild and excited, and struck out at P.C. Shurey. Both constables closed with him, and after a severe struggle succeeded in handcuffing the man. Ascertaining that the man resided with his parents in the

Cathays district, the City Police took him to his home, and summoned Dr. C.C. Sheppard, who, after an examination, pronounced the man to be of unsound mind.

He is suffering from a mania of a religious character.”

Charles left the police in January 1915 and joined the army, enlisting in the 16th (Cardiff City) Battalion of the Welsh Regiment on 9th January 1915. He went with the Battalion to France, as part of the 38th (Welsh) Division, in December that year.

On 11th January 1916, whilst the Battalion was at Robecq near Bethune in France, Charles together with members of a platoon of D Company, were engaged in grenade practice. During it a grenade exploded prematurely killing one soldier immediately, whilst the officer in charge, Second Lieutenant Gaskell, and others, including Charles, were wounded.

Lieutenant David Lyndsay Stranack Gaskell died of his wounds in the early hours of the following morning.

The *Glamorgan Gazette* of 21st January 1916 quoted from a letter which described the incident:

“I am sorry to tell you that on Tuesday we had another bombing accident. A platoon

of D Company were practising bombing in a field, under Second-Lieutenant Lindsay Gaskell, when a bomb, the time fuse of which was apparently defective, exploded in a man’s hand, and shattered it completely. Another man had his neck dislocated by the sheer force of the concussion. Lieutenant Gaskell received injuries to his head, from which he succumbed a few hours later, while, in addition, two sergeants and three men received serious injuries.”



Lieutenant Gaskell

Lieutenant Gaskell was the son of James Stranack Gaskell and Henrietta Helen Gaskell, and a cousin of Lieutenant Colonel Frank Gaskell,

Commanding Officer of the Cardiff City Battalion. Prior to the war he was articled to a London firm of solicitors, John Beale & Co, and was preparing for his final law examination when war broke out. He initially joined the Honourable Artillery Company, but transferred to the Cardiff City Battalion after he was commissioned as an officer. He was 22 years of age when he died and is buried at St. Venant Communal Cemetery in France.

Sadly, Lieutenant Colonel Frank Gaskell too was to die of wounds just a few months later on 17th May 1916.

As for Charles, his wounds were such that he was discharged from military service on 22nd September 1916. However, by 1919 he had recovered sufficiently to be able to re-join the Glamorgan Constabulary as PC 788.

The 1939 National Register records him as a police sergeant and living with his wife, Edith, at the Police Station at St. Nicholas in the Vale of Glamorgan.

Charles died in 1979, aged 87.

Policing the coal strikes

PC 685 ALBERT LEONARD KEYES

**GLAMORGAN CONSTABULARY
SERGEANT 23092
16TH BATTALION,
WELSH REGIMENT**

Albert was born in Ledbury, Herefordshire on 25th November 1892 and joined the Glamorgan Constabulary in 1911 as PC 685. He had previously been employed as a shunter with the Great Western Railway.

He served with the police until 27th November 1914 when he left to join the army.

He enlisted in the 16th (Cardiff City) Battalion of the Welsh Regiment and went with it to France in December 1915 as part of the 38th (Welsh) Division.

On 7th July 1916 the Battalion took part in the first, bloody, assault on the German held Mametz Wood during the Battle of the Somme. Three Glamorgan policemen serving with the Battalion died that day-Richard (Dick) Thomas, Robert John Harris and William Edward Trinder.

It was during the attack that Albert suffered bullet wounds to the head and right shoulder. He was treated at the 36th Casualty Clearing Station at nearby Heilly before being evacuated to England.

His wounds were such that he was discharged from the army on 28th February 1917.

His army records contain a copy of a letter from the Chief Constable of Glamorgan, Captain Lionel Lindsay, which indicates the way in which such matters were dealt with at the time. It also shows Lindsay's attitude towards the policing of the coalfields of South Wales. The letter is reproduced on the next page.

Chief Constable's Office,
Canton, Cardiff
January 12th 1917.

Sir,

I have received an application from 23092 Sergt. A. Keyes, of your Regt., for permission to rejoin this Force.

On hearing that you have been able to arrange for his transfer, I will at once send a sound, partly trained man to the colours and send you a Certificate from the Recruiting Officer that I have done so.

Owing to trouble in the Admiralty Steam-Coal field, in this County, we cannot reduce our force any further.

I am, however, trying to replace all our men with the colours who are unfit, by sending a sound and partly trained man to replace each of them.

Policemen who have been on Active Service naturally exercise great influence in counteracting the work of possible disloyal agitators.

Trusting you will be able to oblige me in this matter.

Yours faithfully,

Lionel Lindsay

Chief Constable

*The Officer Commanding,
3rd Welsh Regiment,
Kinmel Park*

The arrangement was duly made and Albert re-joined the force shortly afterwards in 1917 as PC 85 before resigning on 28th June 1918.

He became a member of the Old Comrades Association of the 16th Battalion.



Captain Lionel Lindsay, Chief Constable of Glamorgan from 1891 to 1937. (South Wales Police Photo Collection/ Glamorgan Archives DSWP/PH/MOU/15).

Lost an eye in action and returned to policing

**PC 721, 558 & 527
RICHARD LAWRENCE
GLAMORGAN CONSTABULARY
PRIVATE 13445
2ND BATTALION,
GRENADEER GUARDS**

Richard was born on 25th July 1889 at Crewkerne in Somerset.

He enlisted in the Grenadier Guards on 1st November 1907 and served with them for three years. He then joined the Cardiff City Police and, after being with them for just over a year, he transferred to the Glamorgan Constabulary as PC 721 on 2nd January 1912.

He then appears to have left policing and spent some time as a collier before re-joining the Glamorgan force on 23rd February 1914 as PC 558. However, he was only to serve for a few months before the outbreak of war on 4th August when he was recalled to the colours as a reservist. He went to France with the 2nd Battalion, Grenadier Guards on 13th August 1914.

He was seriously wounded during the early fighting of the war, and was discharged from the army on medical grounds on 14th December 1914.



The Cloth Hall, Ypres damaged after the first German bombardment, November 1914 (© IWM (Q57290)).

He then re-joined the Glamorgan Constabulary on 1st February 1915 as PC 527 and was stationed at Barry Dock.

A little of his story can be gleaned from a report by the Chief Constable, Captain Lionel Lindsay, to the Glamorgan Constabulary Standing Joint Committee on 15th March 1915:

“PC Richard Lawrence: The Committee decided at their last meeting that Lawrence, who had received a bullet wound in the head and a bayonet wound in the eye at Ypres, should re-join the Force immediately he was again fit for Police service on recovery from his wounds. He was discharged from the

Army on 14th December 1914, with a pension of 1s 6d per day for life and up to that date, in addition to his Army pay, he had received the allowance granted by the Committee under the Police Reservists’ Allowances Act 1914, of 8s per week. He was, however, unable to re-join the Force at that time as it was discovered that there was still a splinter from the bayonet in his head. He returned to hospital and had two pieces of splinter removed and was discharged from there on the 5th January 1915. On the 29th January 1915, he was fitted with a glass eye and he re-joined the Force on 1st February 1915 and since that date he has apparently been in good health.”



Soldiers sheltering from shrapnel, Ypres, 1914 (© IWM (Q57205)).

Prior to that report the *Barry Dock News* had carried an item relating to Richard:

“BRAVE BARRY P.C. WELCOMED GENERAL LEE AND THE WORK OF THE GRENADIERS

Police Constable Richard Lawrence, who was severely wounded whilst fightingwith the Grenadier Guards, is now stationed at Barry Docks, and on Monday last he gave evidence in a case at Barry Police Court.

At the close of his evidence, Major General Lee, the presiding magistrate, enquired of the constable the cause of his injury.

PC Lawrence: A bullet in the eye, sir

General Lee: Is your health pretty good?

The Constable: Yes, sir

Major General Lee: I am very glad to see you back. You have done well. The Grenadiers have done better than anybody.” (26th February 1915)

It seems that he continued to serve as a police officer for many years afterwards since the 1939 National Register shows him living in the Rhondda with his wife, Marjorie, his occupation being “Police Constable (Glamorgan)”.

He died at Weymouth on 16th August 1967.

An officer in the new Royal Air Force

**PC 624 JOSEPH WILLIAM
LOCKE**

GLAMORGAN CONSTABULARY

PRIVATE 703

1ST BATTALION, WELSH GUARDS

FLIGHT OFFICER,

ROYAL NAVAL AIR SERVICE

2ND LIEUTENANT,

ROYAL AIR FORCE



Joseph was from Tonypany where he was born in 1894 (although there are discrepancies in the records as to the date of birth).

At the time of the census of 1911, he was living at 54 Court Street, Blaenclydach, Tonypany with his mother and brothers and sisters. His occupation at that time was as a colliery engine driver. His military records show that he worked at the Glamorgan Coal Company colliery at Llwynypia.

On 11th August 1914 he joined the Glamorgan Constabulary and served until 12th March 1915 when he left to enlist in the army. He served with 1st Battalion, Welsh Guards with whom he went to France in August 1915.

In 1918 he left the Welsh Guards as he was commissioned as an officer in the Royal Naval Air Service. His time there was short, however, since on 1st April 1918 it and the Royal Flying Corps came together to form the Royal Air Force with which Joseph became a Second Lieutenant. He was, therefore, one of the first officers of the Royal Air Force on its formation but did not see active service with them before the war came to an end in November 1918.

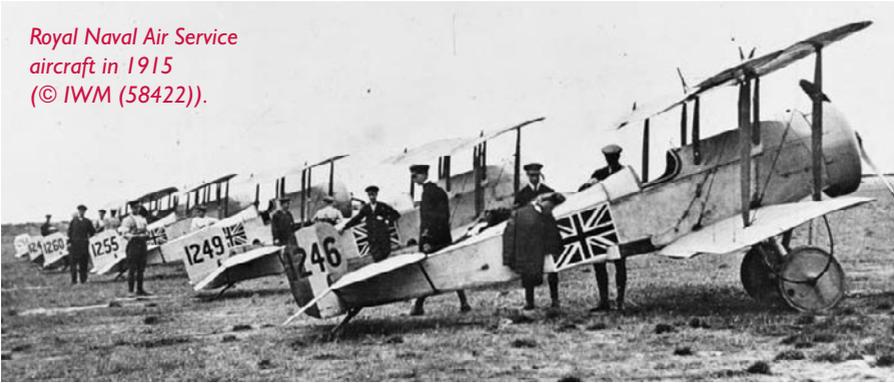
He re-joined the Glamorgan Constabulary after the war and became sergeant 94. By the time the National Register was compiled in 1939 he had retired.

In due course, Joseph went to live in Kettering where he died on 10th September 1969.

An obituary to him appeared in the Autumn 1970 edition of the South Wales Constabulary magazine as follows:

"It is with regret that we have to record the death recently at his home in Kettering, Northants, of ex-Sergeant 94

Royal Naval Air Service
aircraft in 1915
(© IWM (58422)).



Joseph Locke, of the Glamorgan Constabulary, at the age of 75 years. Sergeant Locke joined the Force in August 1914, and shortly afterwards resigned to serve first in the Army and then in the RAF....during the First World War and until March, 1919, when he rejoined the Force. His flying experience was later to afford him the distinction of being one of the first (if not the first) policemen to pilot an aircraft on police patrols in the county, when he was given the duty of carrying out reconnaissance from the air of the widespread assemblies, sometimes riotous, of unemployed, of strikers, and of marchers, throughout the county in the 1930's.

Before retiring on grounds of ill-health in 1938, Mr. Locke had been stationed at Ystrad Rhondda, Rudry, Gilfach, Bargoed, Penpedairheol, Trealaw, Cadoxton, Barry and finally at Maesteg.

There can be but few serving who remember him, but many pensioners will recall his joviality, loyalty and, perhaps, his skill in the art of watch repairs.

His widow, Mrs. Alice. E. Locke, continues to reside at Kettering and is so proud of his memory and of his service with the Glamorgan Police that she wishes to continue as a subscriber of the Force Magazine to which he looked forward so much each quarter."



The insignia of the Royal Air Force.

Reports from the front line

**PC 540 CORNELIUS
LYONS**

GLAMORGAN CONSTABULARY

PRIVATE 7689

1ST BATTALION,
SCOTS GUARDS



Cornelius was from Grangetown in Cardiff where he was born on 17th March 1892.

He worked as a barman for a time before he joined the army on 22nd August 1910 when he enlisted in the Scots Guards. He was serving with the 2nd Battalion in London at the time of the census of 1911.

He had enlisted for a period of three years in the regular army and accordingly left it on 22nd August 1913 when he transferred to the reserve. He then joined the Glamorgan Constabulary on 13th

September 1913 and was stationed for a time in Barry.

Following the outbreak of war, he was, as a reservist, recalled to the colours and was posted to the 1st Battalion, Scots Guards with whom he went to France on 13th August 1914. The Battalion formed part of the 1st Division of the British Expeditionary Force. In August 1915 it transferred to the newly formed Guards Division.

Cornelius was involved in the heavy fighting during the early stages of the war and was wounded. Local newspapers carried a number of vivid accounts by him of his experiences during this time which are reproduced below. The first report is from the *Barry Dock News* for 2nd October 1914:

“Another of the stories of extraordinary gallantry and determined pluck of the British troops in France was told to a “Barry Dock News” reporter this week by Private Cornelius Lyons, of the Scots Guards, who has returned to Barry from the Front, having been wounded in the thighs by a piece of shrapnel in the Battle of Mons.

Private Lyons, who was formerly a police-constable, stationed in the Barry district, is still limping badly from the wound, but like all other loyal ‘Tommies,’ he hopes to be soon back in

the firing line, to again do his share for his country.

'The Scots Guards,' he narrated, 'were amongst the first of the British Regiments to arrive in France. We were there long before the British public knew that our troops had arrived in France at all, and were soon in the midst of the fighting.

We were about thirteen miles from Mons when we heard that the enemy was there, and we marched off with all haste, eventually taking up a position at daybreak-on a Sunday, I think.

Time went on, and the battle was getting fiercer and fiercer. Bullets and shrapnel were flying all around us, and the noise of the guns was deafening. We frequently saw aeroplanes hovering over us, but our guns brought several of them down. The battle was at its height when I received my injury. A piece of shrapnel exploded, and struck me with terrific force on the thighs. It rendered me quite helpless. We thought of nothing except to go straight for the enemy. And we did it.

This is one of the many plucky incidents which are continually occurring amongst the British Troops. One brave fellow, a Scotsman he was, got shot through the arm, and we thought he was to be counted out. But when the officer called for volunteers to go back for horses, as

the others were shot down, one of the first to offer his services was that fellow-he was the essence of pluck and daring. He fell time after time, and as he was making a desperate effort to get to the horses he was shot through the foot. He was not to be denied, though, but the poor fellow was losing so much blood and was getting so weak. He managed to get back, and then found that only one man was working the gun-we were all busily engaged in fighting. He went to his assistance, but just then he was struck by a shrapnel, and he fell down quite exhausted, and terribly wounded.'

Although not having witnessed any of the German barbarities, Private Lyons states that it was nothing at nights to see the sky illuminated by the flames from houses which had been wrecked and burned by the enemy, whilst the destitute Belgians and French walked aimlessly along the country roads.

'We frequently met these poor destitute people,' he added, 'and although not having much food with us, they were always welcome to what we had.'

'The Germans were fully three to one,' he concluded. 'We were not fighting against their skill, but purely against numbers, for when one of their men was mowed down, another quickly came up to take his place.'



The Cambridge Military Hospital, Aldershot.

Private Lyons received treatment in the hospital in Aldershot, and is at present staying with relatives at Barry.”

The *Barry Dock News* edition for 26th May 1915 carried extracts from a letter written by Cornelius in which, again, he describes his time at the front:

“Private Cornelius Lyons,..... 1st Scots Guards, formerly a member of the Glamorgan Constabulary, at Barry, has returned to the Front after a long spell at home wounded.

Private Lyons who went to France with the British Expeditionary Force in August has written a long letter to Mr. T.H. Hill, Windsor Hotel, Barry Docks, in which he thanks Mr. Hill for cigarettes sent out. ‘I am just having a few hours rest,’ says Private Lyons. ‘This place is ‘hell itself.’ The shells are continually flying

about. The driver of the cart which conveyed your parcel to us had a ‘narrow shave’, a shell bursting over the cart. The horses were killed, but the driver got away with a cut finger, caused by falling. Very fortunate. The ‘Germs’ here are using what we call ‘silent bombs’. They don’t make a noise when in the air like the other projectiles, but they are very effective, and are fired by something like a machine gun. The other day we came across one of the German mines. We immediately blew it up. A few hours later, the Huns blew up another. I suppose they thought we had discovered that also. When they blew up this, they ‘blew up’ some of their own men also, owing to their faulty engineering. At this place, the Prussian Guards received a taste of our fire, which they will never forget. It was here that after several days’ fierce fighting

they thought the road was clear, and formed up intending to march on a town close by. Then our battalion, together with others, planted themselves on the sides of the road in ambush. The Huns advanced right up, and then a terrible fire thundered out from our guns, and told a deadly tale. Very few of the Prussian Guards survived. This war...is a siege war, different from any of the past. If we could only get them in the open, their end would soon come. Even now, when we have a 'bust up' and come to close quarters with them, they throw up their arms, shouting 'English, merci.' Of course, of victory we are certain, and as the days roll by the more confident we get. People must not entertain the idea that peace should come now. We are taking the chance, therefore it will take time.'

Private Lyons asks Mr. Hill to thank all subscribers to the cigarette fund. 'There are many stories to tell,' concludes Private Lyons, 'but being away from civilisation, it is difficult to obtain writing material.'"

The *Western Mail* of 4th June 1915 under the heading "Germans Fed Up-Surrendering to British in large numbers" quotes from a letter Cornelius had written to his father:

"As recently as a few weeks ago we were in a 'big thing.' For days afterwards my head was terrible. The din was terrible.

Of course, it will take me a long time to get over last year's affairs.....

The Germans are getting fed up. Whenever we attack they surrender in large numbers. Our aeroplanes are great-at least our airmen. They deserve every praise. The Germans are continually shelling them, but to no purpose. A German aeroplane will not face ours.

They (the Germans) have something new which I saw for the first time yesterday. They have several kites in the air which turn in different directions, finally all coming into alignment. I think it is some kind of signal. I have been looking into what was an old church. Everything has been blown to atoms. Surrounding the church was a cemetery. I would not disclose what that place was like. Our artillery is improving every day, and I am sure that the Germans know it. The other day they shelled us for hours."

Finally, the *Barry Herald* of 11th June 1915 reproduced a letter which Cornelius wrote, at about the same time, to P.C. Sullivan of Barry Dock:

"We have been in a ding dong affair. You have, no doubt, heard of the big thing we were in. It started on a Sunday morning, and the guns roared. Our boys were 'game,' and went into it having not

the least lack of courage. Really, our party did a great thing, taking possession of the German first line almost immediately—a feat which will make their name in history.

The battle lasted several days, and finally we achieved our object. It was a time. The din was terrible, and the sights even worse. I admit that our losses were rather high, but the German losses were colossal. Every time we make an attack we are always sure of huge numbers surrendering. We have taken a number of prisoners, and, judging from what they say, they are 'fed up' with the war. The Germans are very cunning, and very keen. Every day they invent something fresh.

Where I am writing is a place worse than the trenches. Shells are continually dropping into the town. I say 'town,' because it was once a beautiful town. Now it is a heap of rubbish.

One evening we organised a concert, and got a piano from a ruined house. It bore signs of shrapnel bullets, but it answered the purpose. We had not got far with the programme when over came the shells. We did not give in. We continued with the 'sing song', which was much appreciated by all"

Cornelius was hospitalised due to sickness and injuries as a result of his time on the front line. As mentioned above, he was in hospital in Aldershot (the Cambridge Military Hospital) after he was wounded during the Battle of Mons. He returned to France in February 1915 before being admitted to the 24th General Hospital in Etaples in September 1915. He was subsequently in the 4th Northern General Hospital in Lincoln. After his discharge from the latter he remained on home service in the 3rd (Reserve) Battalion of the Regiment, until he was discharged from the army on 20th August 1918 as being "no longer physically fit for war service."

He re-joined the force on 21st August 1918 but then resigned on 6th September due to ill health. He died on 19th November 1979.

The 4th Northern Military Hospital, Lincoln.



*4th. Northern Military Hospital,
Lincoln.*

**Gunfire on the Western Front
and in the Swansea Valley**

**PC 601 AND 732
RICHARD THOMAS
LYONS**

**GLAMORGAN CONSTABULARY
COMPANY SERGEANT MAJOR
17939 AND SECOND LIEUTENANT
14TH BATTALION,
WELSH REGIMENT**



Richard (or “Dick” as he was known) was from Waterford in Ireland where he was born in May 1893.

According to the Irish census of 1911 he was, at that time, employed as a gardener.

He later moved to South Wales and worked as a porter on the Great Western Railway before he joined the Glamorgan Constabulary on 2nd November 1912.

At the outbreak of the First World War in August 1914, Dick was

stationed at Clydach in the Swansea Valley and enlisted in the 14th (Swansea) Battalion of the Welsh Regiment, the “Swansea Pals”.

He was one of several police officers from Clydach who served in the army during the war. Included among them was PC Edmund Flaherty who was to be awarded the Military Medal for bravery (see the booklet for 1917).

Dick went to France with the Swansea Battalion, as part of the 38th (Welsh) Division in December 1915. They were to be involved in the fierce and bitter fighting of July 1916 when they took part in the assault to capture the German held Mametz Wood on the Somme. The Battalion suffered many casualties when it attempted to take the Wood on 10th July and although the Welsh Division was ultimately successful it came at great cost.

Dick continued to serve until the end of the war, by which time he had been promoted to Company Sergeant Major and in March 1919 he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant (*London Gazette* 16th April 1919).

He returned to policing in 1919 and re-joined the Glamorgan Constabulary. During the ensuing years he was stationed at several



After the battle: Mametz Wood 10th August 1916 (© IWM(Q864)).

places in the county and his police career saw him achieve promotions through the ranks to sergeant, inspector and ultimately to superintendent.

It was whilst he was stationed at Pontardawe in the Swansea Valley that he played a part in a case which caused a great deal of local and national interest.

Two brothers, Daniel Thomas Mainwaring and Gwynfryn Mainwaring, from Godrergraig in the Swansea Valley,

embarked on a spate of burglaries and robberies during the early months of 1923. The offences included:

- Robbery armed with a revolver at the offices of the Glanrhyd Tinplate Works in Pontardawe when money was stolen.
- Burglary of the Post Office at Ystalyfera when, again, money was stolen.
- Attempted murder of a booking clerk at the railway station at



Memorial to the 38th (Welsh) Division with Mametz Wood in the background taken at the centenary of the Battle, July 2016.

Pontardawe when the loaded revolver was discharged and money was stolen.

- Breaking and entering the Co-operative Stores at Alltwen, Pontardawe when a number of items including clothing and money were taken.
- Shooting at Dick with intent to do him grievous bodily harm and resisting arrest.

Dick played a leading part in the apprehension of the two men. The robbery at the Glanrhyd works had taken place on Friday 16th March.

The two men made off from the scene and, as the *Western Mail* reported the following day, the local police soon gave chase:

“During the evening the Glamorgan County Police stationed in the district had an exciting search. Superintendent Col. Smith, who is in command of the district, at once went over to superintend the police operations, and Inspector James and a number of local officers engaged in active pursuit, whilst others on motor-cycles scoured the roads leading from the town in all directions.”

The older of the brothers, Daniel, was pursued by Dick on the Friday as

described by the *Western Mail* of Monday, 19th March:

... Police-constable Lyons, one of the Pontardawe Police-constables who took part in the chase on Friday, experienced one of the most thrilling runs of his life. He had been in many cross-country runs during his army career, but his experiences on Friday were gruelling in the extreme.

Lyons was at the Pontardawe Police-station when a 'phone message was received shortly before two o'clock. He immediately covered himself with an overcoat and made off on his motor-cycle in the direction of Gellinudd. On arrival at the junction of the road leading to Neath he spoke to several men who were at work with a steam-roller as to whether they had seen anybody pass. Their replies were in the negative, but almost at the same moment Lyons observed a man about 200 yards higher up the road.

He immediately made off again on his machine, but, failing to see anyone, he looked over the hedge, and saw a figure making off across the fields. Lyons dropped his machine in the ditch and gave chase. The man by this time was fully 300 yards ahead of him. After covering three-quarters of a mile Lyons had got to within 150 yards of his man, who was then jumping the last

fence before entering the woods at Wauancoed.

At the same moment the man fired at the officer. The latter, however, was undaunted, but it was just like looking for a needle in a haystack once the man had entered the woods on account of the bushes and gorse.

Lyons pressed forward until he reached the gamekeeper's cottage on the mountain side, another three-quarter's of a mile away, and from this spot he saw the same man making his way under the bridge crossing the river to the Bryn Works. Lyons ran down the slope, but failed to keep the man under observation on account of the bushes."



Daniel Thomas Mainwaring

Daniel Mainwaring was arrested on the following day, Saturday 17th March.

Daniel's brother, Gwynfryn, was arrested on the Sunday, by Dick.

The *Western Mail* of 19th March, again contained a full description of the pursuit:

"This development" (the arrest of Gwynfryn) "was expected as the police had obtained information on the previous night through Police-sergeant Williams,

of Clydach, and his men that Gwynfryn Mainwaring was in Cardiff and that he had purchased a motor-cycle in that city. The younger man is stated to have spent Friday night in a Swansea hotel, where it was reported he entertained some friends in a liberal manner.

Following up the trail, Police-constable Lyons proceeded towards Cardiff on his motor-cycle, and when a couple of hundred yards from the Bridgend Police-station he observed a motor-cycle coming from the direction of Cardiff. He recognised the man as the one he was looking for and followed him. Upon overtaking Mainwaring, he requested him to pull up, and at the same time he gradually forced him towards the ditch, when he was obliged to bring his machine to a standstill. The officer then took the man to the Bridgend Police-station, where he was searched by Inspector James and Police-constable Jones, of Pontardawe.

Prior to the arrival of the party in Pontardawe the news of the arrest was well known in the district, and Police-constable Lyons came in for an ovation."

The men were committed for trial at the Assize Court in Swansea in July 1923 as a result of which Daniel Mainwaring, who had admitted the use of the revolver, was sentenced by the judge, Mr. Justice Sankey, to 12 years penal

servitude whilst his younger brother, Gwynfryn, as his accomplice, was sentenced to 21 months hard labour.

Finally, in relation to this case, it's worth noting that the reference in the *Western Mail* report of 16th March, to "Superintendent Col. Smith" was to Fred Smith, who commanded the Cardiff City Battalion of the Welsh Regiment at Mametz Wood in July 1916.

Towards the end of his police career Dick's achievements were recognised by the award to him of the King's Police Medal in the New Year Honours of 1953 (*London Gazette* 1st January 1953). The award was followed by a parade and presentation of the medal to him on 25th April 1953 as reported by the following day's *Western Mail*:

"Glamorgan police are a byword for their smartness", said Major Cennydd G Traherne (Lord-lieutenant of Glamorgan), at the County Police Headquarters, Bridgend, yesterday.

Major Traherne was presenting the King's Police Medal for distinguished service to Police-superintendent Richard T Lyons, of Bridgend.

'To win this medal,' said the Lord-lieutenant, 'is very unusual. It is only awarded for very exceptional service when a police officer has shown outstanding

leadership and that something extra that makes for the very best.

I am sure that he (Superintendent Lyons) would say that he has been magnificently supported by his colleagues.

During his 40 years' service he has been an inspiration to the entire force.'

Superintendent Lyons, he went on, joined the force in 1912 and fought with The Welch Regiment during World War I. During World War II he was in charge of the Barry police division.

'He will long be remembered for the way in which he carried out his duties in those dangerous and difficult days. He kept the peace in Barry and he is well remembered because of it,' added Major Traherne.

Introducing the Lord-lieutenant, Alderman P.H. Rowlands, vice-chairman of the county standing joint committee, said that in addition to the 150 guests there were more than 200 senior police officers and men present.

Superintendent Lyons had secured the confidence and co-operation of the public.

'We are proud of the force and consider it second to none in the country,' he added.

Before the ceremony Major Traherne inspected a police parade in company with the Chief Constable of Glamorgan (Mr. C.H. Watkins) and Chief Superintendent Ewart Evans."

Dick died in 1973.

Served his country in two world wars

PC 152 & 275 ARTHUR O'BREE

GLAMORGAN CONSTABULARY

LIEUTENANT COLONEL

WELSH REGIMENT



Arthur was born at Poona in India on 31st May 1886. His full name at birth was Arthur O'Bree Oppenheim but, as we shall see, he later changed it to Arthur O'Bree.

His father, Arthur Edwin Oppenheim, (who also later changed his name to Arthur Edwin O'Bree) was at that time a sergeant in the Adjutant General's Department of the Indian Army. He was later to be a Major in the Indian Army, served during the First World War and was appointed OBE.

Arthur attended school in Britain as a pupil at the Royal Naval School at Mottingham in Kent where he was,

aged 14, at the time of the census of 1901. A boarding school which had been established in 1833, it closed in 1910.

Arthur was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the 3rd Battalion, Welsh Regiment, a reserve battalion, in 1903. He was promoted to lieutenant in 1905 and resigned in April 1911.

Prior to that, on 28th May 1910, he had joined the Glamorgan Constabulary becoming PC 152. He served until September 1910 before transferring to the Metropolitan Police. The census of 1911 shows him living as a boarder in St. John's Wood.

Whilst he was in London, he married Helena May Mortlock in 1912.

He re-joined the Glamorgan Constabulary on 27th January 1913 as PC 275 and, in keeping with the responsibilities of the police at the time, as an acting sergeant, performed duties as an inspector of weights and measures, stationed at Port Talbot.

Prior to the First World War, Arthur's sporting abilities were drawing attention. He was a particularly good cricketer. He appears to have played club cricket in London whilst he was living there. During his time in South Wales he featured in local matches, for example, for the St. Fagan's village team.

The *Herald of Wales* of 27th June 1914 contained a report of a match between Margam and Briton Ferry Steelworks where Arthur, appearing for Margam, was described as "...the famous Lieutenant Oppenheim..." and went on to score 119 runs.

In its edition for 11th July 1914, the *Herald of Wales* again reported on a match at Briton Ferry, this time involving the town team. Their opponents were the Glamorgan Police who had agreed to the fixture in place of Cowbridge who were unable to play.

As a result, it was reported that the Chief Constable of Glamorgan, Captain Lindsay, had sent his "*crack team of cricket giants to fill the gap.*"

The home team were dismissed for a total of 118 and Arthur bowled well for the Police, taking five wickets for twenty four runs.

When the police team batted Arthur was top scorer with 42 runs out of a total of 109 with the result a defeat for the police in a low scoring match, by nine runs.

Also in the team were Gerald Stratton, Arthur's fellow opening batsman who scored twenty runs, and Billy Spiller, the Welsh international rugby player and later first class cricketer who took three wickets and scored eighteen runs.

Apparently, it was an exciting finish. According to the *Herald of Wales*:

“The crowd had re-assembled to witness the finish, and were sheltering under the hedges from the rain. But victory kindled enthusiasm: they raced across the field and formed a cheering, demonstrative avenue through which the local heroes passed to the pavilion. It was a magnificent climax, and incidents connected with it will take a long time-if ever-to erase from memory. The Police, invincible for four seasons, took defeat smiling.”

Following the outbreak of war on 4th August 1914, Arthur resigned from the Glamorgan Constabulary on the 17th of that month, and re-joined the 3rd Battalion of the Welsh Regiment. He became a captain and went to France in September, joining 2nd Battalion, Welsh Regiment. The Battalion had been in France since 13th August and had taken part in the early fighting at Mons and the subsequent retreat, and in the battles of the Marne and the Aisne. The Battalion’s war diary entry for 20th September 1914 noted:

“Heavy shell and rifle fire on 2nd Division since dawn. In the evening orders for A & C Companies to retire from the advanced trenches were

received. A draft consisting of Lieut. T.B. Marshall, Lieut. Oppenheim 3rd Welch Regt and 2Lt R.A.B Young and 244 NCO’s and men mostly of Special Reserve joined this day.”

On the night of 24th/25th October the Battalion moved to Ypres and was soon to be involved in a battle which was to threaten its very existence. Before then, however, there was time for some light relief as the Regimental History recounts:

“...the Battalion spent a whole morning by the Bellewaarde Lake. A punt and a gondola were found in a boathouse, and a race was arranged. The enemy took it into his head to shell the Lake during the race, which was won by the gondola amidst cheers and bursting shells.”

On the 29th the German army launched an attack which threatened to overwhelm the British forces in the area around the village of Gehluvelt. There followed a period of bitter and intense fighting.

The 31st was a critical day when Gheluvelt was taken by the Germans despite the brave efforts of the 2nd Battalion of the Welsh and other units. Eventually it was re-taken by the 2nd Battalion of the Worcestershire Regiment in a determined and courageous action.

*The ruined church at
Gheluvelt photographed in
1916 (© IWM (Q45445)).*



In the day's fighting the 2nd Battalion of the Welsh Regiment suffered grievously. The Battalion's War Diary noted that its casualties amounted to 514 men (18 killed, 92 wounded and 404 missing), although a footnote stated that:

"A large number of the missing have since been accounted for as wounded or prisoners of war. It was impossible at the time to determine what casualties had occurred."

Among those recorded as missing was Arthur who was in the Battalion's "A" Company during the battle. However, as will be seen, he had, in fact, been badly wounded.

As for the impact of the battle for Gheluvelt on the 2nd Battalion, Captain Rees of the Battalion, stated that:

"...on 31st October the 2nd Battalion Welch Regiment was annihilated. No other term can describe the casualties."

Among those who died that day was the Battalion's Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Charles Bernard Morland.

The Regimental History quotes what an officer of the Gloucestershire Regiment who was at Gheluvelt during the fighting later said:

"Church, houses, and windmill of Gheluvelt were reduced to ruins, and the Welch were practically wiped out where they stood, and soon after, dazed and broken men of this Regiment commenced to straggle back through Gheluvelt and Veldhock. Whole companies were annihilated, and the marvel is how anyone remained to help break the infantry attacks which were delivered again and again."

Nevertheless, the Regimental History records that the efforts of the Welch were not in vain:

"It can fairly be claimed that the stubborn resistance put up by the Welch, both in the village and in preventing direct advance on it, delayed the hour of

its capture, and so exhausted the enemy as to make the counter-attack by the Worcesters not only possible, but also likely to be crowned with success."

As for Arthur, it seems that he suffered concussion when a shell exploded near him. He was evacuated to England and a medical board in January 1915 assessed his injury as being equivalent to the loss of a limb in fixing his injury gratuity at £250.

The *Herald of Wales* had carried news of his injury in its edition on 21st November 1914:

"News has been received in Aberavon that Lieutenant Oppenheim, of the Welsh Regiment, has been severely wounded, and is at present in Guy's Hospital undergoing special medical attention. At the outbreak of the war Lieutenant Oppenheim was attached to the Weights and Measures Department of the County Police, and was stationed at Port Talbot where, by his genial and gentlemanly disposition, he commanded great and wide respect. He was an extremely smart and highly capable all-round athlete, a good shot, expert horseman, and played in a few games for the Aberavon Rugby Football Club.

He also played some remarkable games for the Margam Cricket Club, both in bowling and batting.

Lieutenant Oppenheim went through some of the most fierce battles since the start of the war."

Whilst recovering from his injuries Arthur took part in the recruiting campaign for the armed forces. Meetings were held in Cwmavon and Aberavon as the *Herald of Wales* reported on 12th December 1914. The first extract deals with the meeting at Cwmavon:

"Captain Oppenheim, of the 2nd Welsh, . . .invalided home, met with a great reception upon rising to address the meeting, the crowd standing and cheering vociferously. 'Keep those cheers,' said the gallant captain, 'until your boys return home.' He said he only appeared there in support of the appeal for more men, which was the cry of their generals at the front, and also their brave comrades in the trenches. The Welsh Regiment had made history by their valour, and many of them deserved more than twenty Victoria Crosses, and whose motto all along had been 'Better Death Than Dishonour.' (Loud cheers). The strain felt by Welshmen on the field of battle was terrible, yet they acquitted themselves like men, true to the traditions of the Cymric nation."

The second report describes the scenes at Aberavon:

“Last Sunday evening, with its drenching downpour, was a day of great ‘military’ activity in the district. Mass recruiting meetings were held at the Grand Theatre, Aberavon, and at Cwmavon. The Aberavon meeting was one to be remembered, being one of the largest and most enthusiastic ever held in the town. The standard of the oratory too was exceptionally high, and aroused the great audience to a pitch of patriotic fervour. Finer speeches have never been heard in the district than those delivered by the Mayor and Mr. Wm. Jones M.P. A brilliant oration was also delivered by Mr. David Rees, a native of Cardiganshire, and a London barrister. A touch of the true reality of war was also given to the event by the appearance on the platform of Captain Oppenheim, of the 2nd Welsh Regiment, who had gone through all of the most fierce engagements and is now home suffering from severe injuries. He delivered an outspoken, soldierly address, and paid a high tribute to the splendid fighting qualities of the Welshmen, and to a few Aberavon boys with whom he had fought side by side. ‘These gallant Welsh boys in the present terrible conflict,’ said the captain, ‘have acted right up to their noble motto, which is ‘Better death than dishonour.’ I have been unfortunately knocked out,



*A typical First World War recruiting poster
(© IWM (Art.IWM.PST11446)).*

he continued, ‘but when recovered I am going back to those gallant Welsh boys, and I want to take some more from Aberavon with me.’ At this declaration the audience cheered vociferously.”

Arthur’s subsequent war service was largely spent in staff and instructing duties in France and in England. In 1915 he was appointed as an assistant instructor in officer training in Leeds and was later attached to the London Division as an instructor. In May 1916, he was promoted Major and the following month went back to France as Brigade Major with the 180th Infantry Brigade. He later became an assistant instructor at the cadet school in France.

In February 1919 he was promoted to the temporary rank of lieutenant

colonel and was the officer in charge of the Repatriation Records Office at Winchester.

He retired from the army on the grounds of ill health on 8th April 1920. His army records noted that this ill health was due to active service.

As mentioned earlier, after the war Arthur changed his name by Deed Poll in November 1919 from Arthur O'Bree Oppenheim to Arthur O'Bree.

Mention has also been made of Arthur's pre war sporting activity. After the war he played cricket for the Glamorgan County team. During that immediate post war period the club was a Minor County but was making great efforts to become a first-class county and play in the County Championship along with famous county teams such as Yorkshire, Kent, Surrey, Middlesex and Lancashire.

Arthur played in nine Minor County matches, including a score of 116 against Monmouthshire. After Glamorgan achieved first class status in 1921, he played eighteen times for the county including in the very first match that Glamorgan played in the County Championship.

That was against Sussex at the Cardiff Arms Park in May 1921. Glamorgan won by twenty three runs although Arthur, described on the scorecard as



Johannesburg (West Park) Cemetery.

“Colonel A. O’Bree”, made only a modest contribution of eight runs in the second innings having failed to score in the first.

Arthur lived in Swansea during the inter war years and when the Second World War broke out in 1939, he returned to military service, this time with the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. He was appointed a Pilot Officer in the Administrative and Special Duties Branch in January 1940 and promoted to Flying Officer in January 1941.

It was whilst serving with the RAF in South Africa that Arthur died on 27th December 1943, aged 57.

He is buried in a grave of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission at the Johannesburg (West Park) Cemetery.

The headstone to Arthur's grave has on it the inscription:

**“Eternal Rest
Give to him, O Lord;
And Let Perpetual Light
Shine Upon Him
RIP”**

Brothers in arms

PC 62 JOSEPH RHYS RICHARDS

GLAMORGAN CONSTABULARY

SERGEANT 233,

1ST BATTALION, WELSH GUARDS

CAPTAIN, SOUTH WALES

BORDERERS



Joseph was born on 8th July 1892 and was from Carmarthenshire.

At the census of 1911 he was living at Ystradamman Farm, near Ammanford. His father was a farmer and Joseph also worked on the farm.

He joined the Glamorgan Constabulary on 13th June 1911 and served for a time at Ferndale in the Rhondda before leaving the police on 23rd October 1914.

During the First World War, he was in 1st Battalion, Welsh Guards and went

with them to France in August 1915. His service number of 233 indicates that he was one of the first members of the Regiment after it was formed earlier that year.

A report in the *Amman Valley Chronicle* of 21st October 1915, gave some details regarding him and his brothers:

“A letter has been received by his parents, at Ystradamman Farm, from Corporal J. Richards, 1st Welsh Guards, written on 28th September. He says:- ‘We have been on the move for a few days, but now our chaps are under fire. They started last night. You ought to be here to hear the shells whistling over our heads. But I am all right so far, as I am back behind the firing line, with the headquarters staff, looking after the horses, shoeing and harness, dressing those which have been wounded, and serving out oats and hay to the drivers. I expect you will see the news in the paper this week about us.’

Corporal Richards was in the Glamorganshire Police Force at Ferndale prior to enlisting. He is a great athlete and footballer, and was one of the team selected to play for the county in France before the war. He stands 6ft 1 in., and first joined the Grenadier Guards, but transferred to the Welsh Guards on their formation. Two other brothers are in the Army, both over 6ft in height.

One is a Gunner in the Royal Horse Artillery, and the other, who has taken his degree at Aberystwyth, belongs to the Public Schools and University Battalion. His youngest brother, Morgan Richards, is anxious to join as a drummer.”

The fighting referred to in Joseph’s letter was during the Battle of Loos which commenced on 25th September 1915 and one day, the 27th, saw the Welsh Guards and other Guards battalions suffer heavy casualties, including the deaths of Glamorgan PC’s Michael Doyle (Irish Guards), David William Evans, David Charles Grant, and Ernest Lewis Reeves (Welsh Guards), and Charles Henry Snailham (Grenadier Guards). Also killed was PC Benjamin Evans of the Cardiff City Police (Welsh Guards).

The brothers mentioned in the newspaper article as being in the army were David, who was in the Royal Horse Artillery, and James, in the battalion referred to which was part of the Royal Fusiliers. The young brother, Morgan, who wished to become a drummer, was aged twelve at the time.

Joseph was commissioned as an officer in January 1918 becoming a lieutenant and subsequently a captain in the South Wales Borderers.

He re-joined the Glamorgan Constabulary after the war and was promoted to sergeant (618) before eventually retiring in May 1943. He died at Carmarthen on 7th March 1956.



James Richards



David Richards

A survivor

PC 562 WILLIAM HENRY RICHARDSON

GLAMORGAN CONSTABULARY

CORPORAL 1332

1ST BATTALION,

WELSH GUARDS



William was from Oxford, where he was born on 26th May 1890.

He joined the Glamorgan Constabulary on 26th August 1911, having previously been employed as a fireman. He was for a time stationed as a constable at Porthcawl.

After the outbreak of war, he and four of his Porthcawl colleagues, joined the Welsh Guards. They were PC's David Charles Grant, William Jones Thomas, Dennis Hayes, and Frank Trott.

William and Dennis were the only ones to survive the war.

With other members of the Battalion, William went to France in August 1915 and soon saw action at the Battle of Loos in September which claimed the life of PC Grant.

He served with the Battalion on the Western Front until September 1918 when he returned to Britain.

In 1917 the President of France awarded him the Croix de Guerre for his distinguished service during the campaign.

He was discharged from the army in February 1919 after which he re-joined the Glamorgan Constabulary. He was in due course promoted to sergeant before he retired.



*Back, left to right: PC's Grant, Thomas and Hayes.
Front, left: William and right: PC Trott.*

The Battle of Loos and the death of an officer

**PC 369 WILLIAM
THOMAS ROBERTS**
GLAMORGAN CONSTABULARY
PRIVATE 1165
1ST BATTALION,
WELSH GUARDS



William was born at Cwmystwyth near Aberystwyth, Cardiganshire, in August 1888.

He joined the Glamorgan Constabulary on 8th May 1909, having previously been employed as a timberman. He was stationed in Barry at the time of the census of 1911.

In April 1915 he left the police and along with six other constables from Cadoxton, Barry, enlisted in 1st Battalion, Welsh Guards. He went with the regiment to France in August 1915.

He took part in the Battalion's baptism of fire at the Battle of Loos in

September 1915. The *Western Mail* of 11th October that year carried an account of the Battalion's attempts to take Hill 70 during the battle including William's experiences during it.

"Three times had Hill 70 been taken, and three times had it been re-taken by the enemy, when certain battalions received orders on Saturday evening, the 25th of September, that the hill must again be taken, and this time held.

The members of these battalions had been at the front for seven weeks, but it was now they received their first experience of actual fighting in the great war. And it was at Hill 70 that in one short day they won imperishable fame by capturing and retaining against countless odds a position which was well-nigh impregnable, and regarded as one of the most important, from a military point of view, all along the German front in France.

'Take the hill and hold it.' This was the order which the men received, and they went forth determined to do so.

Private W.T. Roberts, formerly a Cadoxton-Barry constable, and one of the first to join the Welsh battalion which assisted in taking the hill, is now at the Welsh Metropolitan Hospital at Whitchurch, having been wounded in the leg on Monday, September 27,

between Loos and Hill 70. Roberts was the personal attendant of Captain Osmond Williams, and it was touching to hear him relate how that gallant officer met his fate.

'I had only known Captain Osmond Williams a few months,' Roberts told a Western Mail reporter, 'but I had known him long enough to love him, and I am sorry that I was not allowed to die for him. I would have done so gladly. He was a brave soldier, a gentleman who loved his men as his own comrades.

We marched out on Sunday for Loos, under cover of shell-fire, but it was on Monday that we commenced the attack. It was a terrible time. We drove the enemy back step by step, and having taken Loos, after very hard fighting, we pressed on till we got within range of the hill. Then it was a case of 'Up and at 'em!' Before nightfall we had reached the top of the hill. The Welshmen made magnificent dashes. They could not be held back. We had reached the top of the hill when Captain Osmond Williams received his death wounds. He went to the rescue of one of his men who had fallen badly wounded-Private George Coles, whose home is in Charlotte-place, Cadoxton. Captain Williams was helping to bring him into safety and cover, and was in a stooping position when he was shot in the shoulder.

But he continued to fight, and it was not until he had received another shot, this time in the leg, that he fell exhausted. He died three days later in hospital, having meanwhile been visited by Sir John French.

'I am glad of one thing,' Private Roberts observed, 'I gave the captain his last cup of tea before he was wounded, and had in my possession some of his clothes, one of his field-glasses, and his periscope when he charged up the hill.'

Describing how he himself was wounded, Private Roberts said that soon after they had left Loos for the hill in the distance, fighting their way forward inch by inch, he received a shot in the leg, and, with several comrades who had also been wounded, he was obliged to fall out. Roberts was right-hand man in the front rank, and within a couple of yards was Captain Osmond Williams leading his men. Roberts crept back to the dressing station at Loos, and was waiting to have his wound attended to when a shell from the enemy burst on the roof and blew the building up. He lay at the time about twenty yards away, and escaped injury. Seeing that there was now but little chance of being attended to there, Roberts succeeded, with the aid of a crude wooden staff, which he still preserves, to limp and crawl to the next dressing station, two

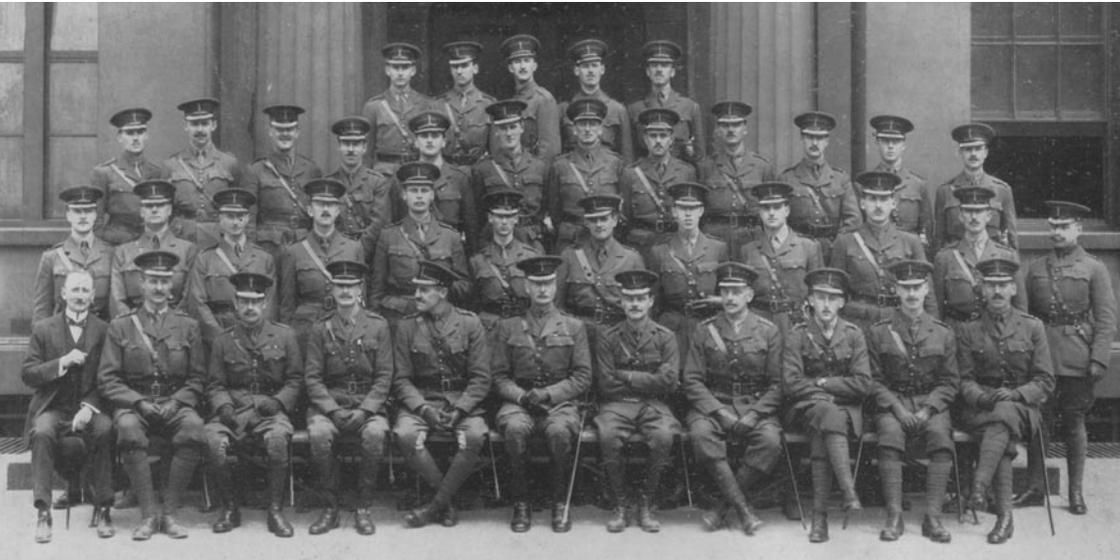
or three miles away, though exposed to fire all the time, and he was afterwards taken to the base.

Amongst those who were put out of action at Loos at the same time was Private T.J. Davies, also formerly a police-constable at Cadoxton-Barry. He was wounded and taken prisoner by the Germans.”

As has been mentioned earlier in the booklet and in previous booklets, the Battle of Loos resulted in the deaths of several police officers from South Wales. Despite the bravery shown during the attack on Hill 70, the Welsh

Guards were eventually forced to withdraw.

Captain Osmond Trehairn Deudraeth Williams, was the eldest son of Sir Arthur Osmond Williams, a former Member of Parliament for Merionethshire. Captain Williams had served in the South African War and was awarded the Distinguished Service Order early in the First World War for his bravery in leading a cavalry charge. He was one of the first officers of the Welsh Guards following its formation in 1915. As indicated in the interview with William quoted



The officers of 1st Battalion Welsh Guards from a photograph which appeared in the Illustrated London News in June 1915, shortly before they went to France in August that year. Captain Osmond Williams is fourth from the right in the front row.

above, he was clearly a highly regarded officer. The *Western Mail* of 11th October 1915, contained several tributes to him including the following from a fellow officer:

“Never has a death caused more regret in this war, and never has a ‘field’ funeral had such an attendance. Four generals, all the officers, and 70 or 80 men attended. He could have had no greater compliment, as funerals here are so common that half-a-dozen intimate friends is a fair tribute to the dead man. I don’t suppose there was a single officer or man more universally known or admired.”

As for William, he was discharged from the army in January 1919 and then returned to policing with the Glamorgan Constabulary. He achieved the rank of sergeant before eventually retiring.



Captain Osmond Williams.

Survived the First World War and lost a son in the Second

PS 394 GERALD STRATTON

GLAMORGAN CONSTABULARY

MAJOR

WELSH HORSE YEOMANRY AND
ROYAL GARRISON ARTILLERY



According to police records, Gerald was born in the village of Hursley near Winchester in Hampshire on 2nd September 1880. His father, Frederick, was a farmer.

It seems that the family later moved to live at Machen Place Farm, Lower Machen, in Monmouthshire.

In January 1900 Gerald joined the army enlisting in the Glamorgan Company of the Imperial Yeomanry. He saw service with them in the Anglo Boer War and was awarded the

Distinguished Conduct Medal (*London Gazette* 27th September 1901) and was Mentioned in Despatches (*London Gazette* 10th September 1901). Also awarded the DCM and Mentioned in Despatches at the same time was Fred Smith, another Glamorgan policeman, who was to command the 16th (Cardiff City) Battalion of the Welsh Regiment in the First World War, after which he became a superintendent and Deputy Chief Constable in the Glamorgan Constabulary.

The *Western Mail* of 27th May 1915, in dealing with Gerald's subsequent service during the First World War, gave some details of his army service during this early period stating that he had:

"...seen active service in South Africa, where he gained a commission in the Army, the medal for distinguished conduct in the field, the Queen's South African Medal, with four clasps, and the King's South African Medal, with two clasps. From January 1900, until July, 1901, he served with the Glamorgan Yeomanry in the South African war, and also on the staff of General Sir Leslie Rundle as a trooper. Obtaining a commission with the 3rd Battalion, Highland Light Infantry, he was attached to the Army Service Corps, and placed in charge of the Winburg

(Orange River Colony) transport depot. Following the war he served three years and a half in the Natal Police (1905 to 1908)."

Gerald joined the Glamorgan Constabulary on 26th June 1909 and the same article also referred to his police service:

"Since his association with the Glamorgan police he has qualified in every phase of police work, and for several years was in charge of recruits at headquarters. In April, 1912, he was on the 'short list' for the appointment of chief-constable of Newport."

When Gerald applied for that post it would seem that he was an acting sergeant. He was promoted to the substantive rank of sergeant in December 1913.

Gerald's role as a sergeant in charge of new recruits to the Glamorgan Constabulary was recalled many years later by William Charles May. He joined the force before the First World War and was to become a superintendent. In his memoir, *Recollections and Reflections of a County Policeman* (1979) he wrote:

"Sergeant Stratton, an ex-regular army officer had contracted a slight hearing defect ...(and) was the Glamorgan Police Instructor training the police recruits.



The training syllabus consisted of squad and cutlass drill, swimming and running. He supplemented these subjects with general elementary police duty lectures.

He soon won the confidence of our group as a patient and painstaking instructor..."

Gerald also featured in the sporting activities of the Glamorgan Constabulary as he captained the force's football team in its first match, as can be seen from the photograph above from the *Western Mail* of 11th December 1913.

The caption to the photograph reads:

"The Glamorgan County Police on Wednesday played their first match under the Association Code, when they met and defeated a team representing

the Cardiff Union. Above we give a photograph of the team. The names are:-Bottom Row: P.C. J. Jones, P.C. H. Lord, Sergt. G. Stratton (captain), P.C. H. Stallworthy, and P.C. M. Kilrane. Top Row: P.C. T. Henebery, P.C. C. Lyons, P.C. W.G. Farnham, P.C. F. Lord, Sergt. Wm. Macdonald, Sergt. W. Spiller, P.C. J. Birch, and Sergt. E. Harding. Macdonald, the goalkeeper, stands 6ft 5ins. It will be noticed that W. Spiller and J. Birch, of the Cardiff Rugby team, have transferred their services to Soccer."

P.C. F. Lord, fourth from the left in the back row, was Frederick Charles Lord who was to die of wounds on 14th September 1916 whilst serving as a Lance Corporal with the 4th Battalion, Grenadier Guards.

Sergeant W. Spiller, third from the right in the back row, was William Spiller, popularly known as “Billy”. As mentioned earlier in relation to Arthur O’Bree, he was a talented all-round sportsman. He played in ten international rugby matches for Wales between 1910 and 1912, scoring four tries and one dropped goal. He also played cricket for Glamorgan County Cricket Club, and had the distinction of being their first batsman to score a hundred in an innings after they became a first class county in 1921. He reached that milestone in a match against Northamptonshire in July that year.

Following the outbreak of war Gerald left the police in September 1914, and returned to the army, becoming an officer in the Welsh Horse Yeomanry.



This had been formed in August 1914 as a Welsh cavalry regiment. After its formation Gerald played a leading role

in recruiting men for the new regiment and was put in charge of its depot in Newtown in Mid Wales.

He had a succession of promotions, eventually becoming a Major. He was on home service until April 1917 when he went to France on attachment to the Royal Garrison Artillery. He had served as an officer with the Monmouthshire Artillery Volunteers before the war.

He was discharged from the army after the end of war and does not appear to have returned to policing.

During the Second World War, Gerald and his wife, Gwladys, suffered the sad loss of their only child, Gerald Bryan.

He was a Trooper in the 43rd (Wessex) Regiment of the Reconnaissance Corps. The regiment’s equipment included armoured cars and its role was to probe forward on the battlefield, engage the enemy and report back with information regarding the enemy’s forces.

On 18th June 1944, elements of the Regiment embarked on the cargo ship the *MV Derrycunihy* at London’s West India Docks and sailed in a convoy to take part in operations in Normandy following D Day on 6th June.

They reached a position off the British landing beach Sword on 20th June but were unable to disembark because of high seas and enemy gunfire. It was decided to move the ship to Juno beach and early on the morning of 24th June, as the ship's engines were started, there was a huge explosion which split the ship in two. It had triggered an acoustic mine dropped from the air by the German Air Force.

The stern of the ship containing the 43rd Regiment sank rapidly. Matters were made even worse by an ammunition truck catching fire which set alight oil on the surface of the water. 183 men of the Regiment lost their lives, including Gerald's son. It was the heaviest loss of life off the invasion beaches.



The MV Derrycunihy ablaze.

Bryan's body was never found and he is remembered on the War Memorial at Bayeux in Normandy.

The loss of Bryan must have come as a great blow to Gerald and his wife. The *Western Mail* of 11th October 1944 carried this notice:

"Missing in June 1944, now officially reported killed in action at sea off the French coast, Bryan, Trooper, Reconnaissance Regiment, RAC, aged 22, beloved only child of Major and Mrs. Gerald Stratton, Loxley House, Ashcott, Somerset."

Almost sixty from the village of Ashcott served during the war, but Bryan's was the only life lost. The *Taunton Courier and Advertiser* for 7th December 1946 noted that, in an event to mark the return of those who had served and survived, "...all those present stood in silence in his honour."

The same newspaper on 7th October 1950 recorded another event in which Bryan's memory was honoured. The Bishop of Bath and Wells unveiled two tablets at St. Michael and All Angels Church, Greinton, in Somerset. One marked the installation of electricity in the church which had been paid for by Gerald and his wife in memory of Bryan. They had previously lived in the village. The other, a wooden tablet on the south wall of the church, gave details regarding Bryan's death.



The Bayeux Memorial.

As for Gerald, he died at Weston-Super-Mare General Hospital on 29th December 1969 at the age of 89. The funeral and burial took place at St. Michael and All Angels Church on 1st January 1970 and, in reporting it,

the *Central Somerset Gazette* of 16th January, noted that he was a past Vice President of the Polden Hill Branch of the British Legion, and until shortly before his death, President of Ashcott and Shapwick Cricket Club.

8. REFLECTIONS

The First World War had a huge impact on Britain in general and, of course, on Wales.

It was the first “industrial” war, fought with weapons of tremendous destructive power, particularly in relation to artillery.

Before it, casualties of the scale incurred during the war would have been unimaginable, as would the physical destruction which it caused to the towns, villages and countryside of France, Belgium and elsewhere.

Against this background, the deaths suffered by the police forces of South Wales may not seem great. Yet each one represented a loss for a family, for a community and for the officer’s force.

On the sporting field Welsh rugby lost one of its prominent pre-war players in Welsh international Dick Thomas, the policeman from Ferndale who died, along with so many other Welshmen, in the bloody battle for Mametz Wood.

The previous booklets in this series have sought to portray who these policemen were, what their family backgrounds were, where they were from, and what their police and military service was like. We hope that, in doing so, we have enabled them to “live again.”

In addition, there were those who were injured in body or mind, or both, for whom life would never be entirely the same again, however hard they tried to adjust after the end of the war. In this respect it’s worth recalling again what Ronald Baker said about Police Sergeant Bill Humphreys who had been badly wounded:

“...O.B.H. was not a fit man. He suffered considerably from the effects of the war wounds, and on many mornings it took all his will-power to drag himself to the parade ground, though from his deportment and bearing there, no-one could guess it was so.”

We think too of P.C. Richard Lawrence who, despite the loss of an eye in battle, returned to police duties.

We have also told stories of bravery and described the exploits of men such as Ernest Rollings who found lasting fame because of the war and yet remained a modest, unassuming figure.

As stated in the introduction to this final booklet, it has been a great privilege to be involved in producing this series since 2014. As we bring it to a close in 2020, we reflect that we are doing so at a time of great concern and uncertainty arising from the coronavirus pandemic, just over a hundred years after the influenza

pandemic at the end of the First World War which claimed even more lives than that brutal conflict.

We have benefitted greatly from the support of so many people since this project began, and thanks have been expressed to those concerned in the individual booklets produced each year. We simply repeat here our gratitude to all of them.

In relation to all those policemen from the police forces of South Wales who served during the war, and especially those who made the ultimate sacrifice or who bore the effects of the war for the rest of their lives, we conclude with the words spoken at each annual Remembrance Service:

**“At the going down of the sun,
and in the morning,
We will remember them.”**



