

THE GREAT WAR CENTENARY

1914-1918  2014-2018

1916

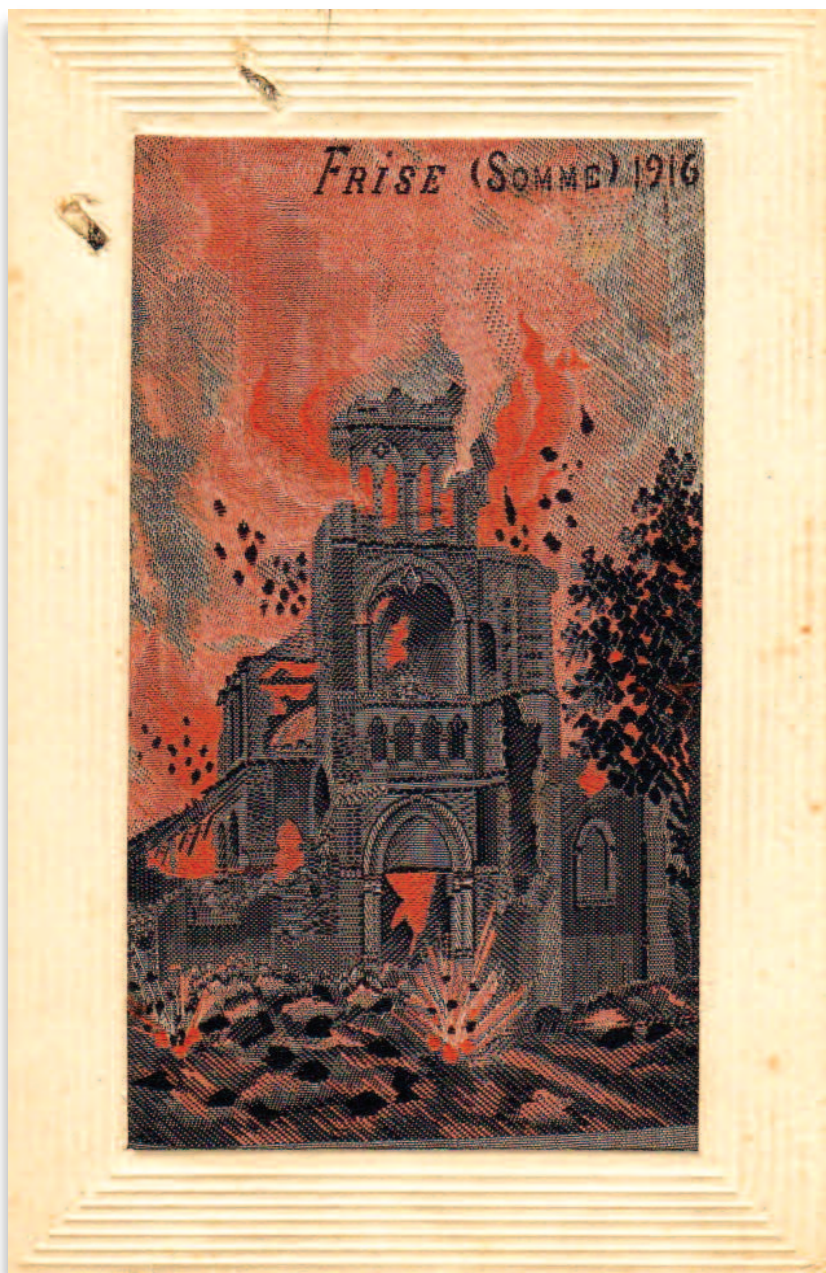


LED BY IWM

LEST WE FORGET

REMEMBERED WITH PRIDE IN 2016
THOSE WHO DIED IN 1916

LEARN  ENGAGE  REMEMBER



First World War silk postcard

INTRODUCTION

This is the third of the booklets which we have produced annually since 2014 to remember those police officers from our predecessor forces of Glamorgan, Cardiff, Swansea and Merthyr who died during the First World War.

2016 is, of course, of particular importance since we commemorate the centenary of the Battle of the Somme. If there is one aspect of the War which is well known to most people in Britain and, indeed, which defines it for them, it is what happened in the area near the river Somme in northern France one hundred years ago. The huge loss of life for the British Army on the first day alone, when nearly 20,000 men died, is, despite the passage of the years, still difficult to comprehend.

The police officers from the forces mentioned bore many losses. Five from the Glamorgan Constabulary lost their lives at Mametz Wood at the beginning of July.

The heroic assault by the 38th (Welsh Division) on the Wood has, fittingly, been the subject of many commemoration events during the year.

It is, however, easy to forget that the Battle of the Somme was not just fought during the summer of 1916. It went on in various phases until November when the mud and the awful conditions so often associated with it became an additional burden for the soldiers to bear. It was during the later stages in September that thirteen of our police officers died: ten from Glamorgan and one each from Merthyr, Swansea and Cardiff.

There are too those who died elsewhere and whose stories are told in this booklet.

We remember all those who served, their endeavours and their sacrifices and hope that this booklet will stand as a worthy tribute to them.

**WE REMEMBER THEM ALL WITH PRIDE.
YN ANGOF NI CHANT FOD.**

Peter Vaughan QPM
Chief Constable, South Wales Police

FIRST WORLD WAR PROJECT GROUP

The work of the Group during the past year has largely been concentrated on the research which has been required to produce this booklet. It contains more biographies than the booklets for 1914 and 1915 put together. This is, of course, a sad reflection, in particular, of the scale of the loss of life in the British Army during the various phases of the Battle of the Somme between July and November 1916.

It is pleasing to note, despite the passage of the years, how much information we are, generally, able to gather and, in particular, how many photographs we come across of the individuals we are remembering.

Another aspect of the work of the Group, which is particularly rewarding, is the contact we have been able to establish with the relatives of some of those who died and with others who are interested in researching this period. This shared history is proving to be a valuable point of contact with our communities.

Some other highlights of our work are:

- Attendance at the Welsh Government and Imperial War

Museum Partnership Day at Aberystwyth University in January which provided an opportunity to learn about the commemoration activities being undertaken throughout Wales.

- The creation of electronic versions of our booklets which are now available on the South Wales Police Museum website: www.south-wales.police.uk/en/about-us/museum/first-world-war-centenary/ and the Welsh Government's community history portal, the Peoples' Collection: www.peoplescollection.wales/users/9665.

(Indeed due to the amount of material which we have for this year we have not been able to include it all in the hard copy of this booklet. There is, therefore, a longer electronic version available on the websites referred to).

- Attendance by members of the Group at the Welsh National Service of Commemoration and associated events at Mametz Wood on the Somme in July.

I was also pleased, with the Chief Constable's support, to accept an invitation to join the Welsh Government's Centenary Programme Board chaired by Professor Sir Deian Hopkin, the First Minister's Expert Adviser on the First World War.

I would like to take the opportunity not only to thank the other members of the Project Group, whose names appear on the rear cover of this booklet, for their unstinting support during the past year, but also others who have assisted us, notably: the South Wales Branch of the Western Front Association, Dr. Jonathan Hicks, Mr. Gwyn Prescott, Mrs. Rhian Diggins, Senior Archivist at Glamorgan Archives, Police Sergeant Sara Tomkinson and her mother for information and material regarding PC 68 Thomas Voyle Morgan, Mr. Peter Pope for information relating to his great uncle PC 225 William James Williams and the Welsh Guards through their Regimental Adjutant, Colonel (Ret'd) Tom Bonas and Mr. Christopher Mooney.

As in past years, particular thanks go to Ian Oakley and his staff in the South Wales Police Printing Department and especially

graphic designer Peter Williams, for their expert assistance.

We hope that our efforts will be regarded as a worthwhile contribution to remembering those within the pages of this booklet who have gone before us and made the ultimate sacrifice.

Gareth Madge OBE

Chair, First World War Project Group



The Thiepval Memorial to the Missing of the Somme where 15 police officers who died in 1916 are commemorated

1916 A SUMMARY

6TH JANUARY

PC 61 Walter Archibald Stubbs of the Merthyr Borough Police dies of wounds in France.

8TH JANUARY

The evacuation of Allied forces from the Gallipoli Peninsula is completed successfully bringing an end to the campaign there.

27TH JANUARY

The Military Service Act receives the Royal Assent to come into force on 2nd March implementing compulsory military service for all unmarried men between the ages of 18 and 41 subject to some exemptions. A further Act in May 1916 extends conscription to married men.

20TH FEBRUARY

PC 760 David Taffinder of the Glamorgan Constabulary dies of wounds in France.

21ST FEBRUARY

The start of the Battle of Verdun when German forces attack French defences. In the ten months of the battle, total French and German casualties amount to over a million men.

7TH MARCH

PC 270 Joseph Patrick Deehan of the Glamorgan Constabulary dies of tuberculosis contracted whilst on active service with the Royal Marines Artillery.

13TH MARCH

PC 533 John Alfred Griffiths of the Glamorgan Constabulary is killed in action in France.

25TH MARCH

Institution of the Military Medal for NCO's and other ranks for acts of bravery. The first awards are announced on 5th April 1916 and one of the first two recipients



is PC 187 Frederick William Mallin of the Glamorgan Constabulary for bravery whilst serving

with the Royal Garrison Artillery during the bombardment of Hartlepool by the German Navy in December 1914.

11TH APRIL

German spy, Ludovic Hurwitz, a Peruvian by birth, is executed by firing squad at the Tower of London.

24TH APRIL

The Easter Rising by Irish nationalist forces in Dublin attempts to overthrow British rule in Ireland. It leads to hundreds of deaths and injuries. Subsequently leaders of the uprising are executed.

29TH APRIL

The besieged Allied garrison at Kut-el-Amara in Mesopotamia (Iraq) surrenders after 143 days. 13,000 British and Indian troops are captured by Turkish forces most of whom die of disease and starvation in prison camps.

8TH MAY

PC 62 Edward John Taylor of the Glamorgan Constabulary is killed in action in Belgium.

21ST MAY

British Summer Time is implemented for the first time.

25TH MAY

PC 68 Thomas Voyle Morgan of the Merthyr Borough Police dies of wounds in France.

31ST MAY

The biggest naval action of the war, the Battle of Jutland,

commences. By 1st June the German High Seas Fleet has inflicted substantial damage and losses on the Royal Navy's Grand Fleet but in doing so suffers considerably itself with the result that it does not put to sea again during the war.

5TH JUNE

The British Secretary of State for War, Lord Kitchener, is drowned when the ship which was taking him to Russia, HMS Hampshire, hits a mine off the Orkney Islands. 643 others also lose their lives.



*Recruiting poster featuring Lord Kitchener
© IWM (Art.IWM PST 2734)*

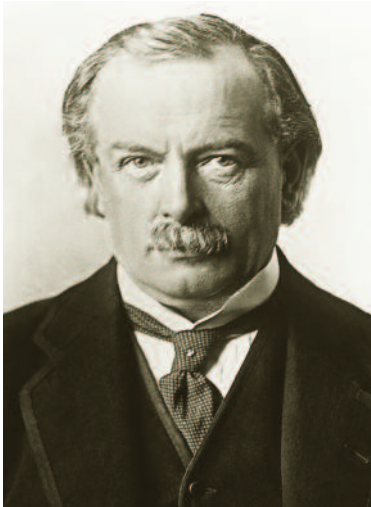
1ST JULY

The start of the Battle of the Somme. 750,000 Allied soldiers are involved and by the end of the day there are nearly 60,000 British casualties of whom nearly 20,000 are dead. The Battle is to continue through several phases to November 1916.

PC George Henry Lock of the Cardiff City Police and PC 225 William James Williams of the Glamorgan Constabulary, are killed in action in Belgium.

4TH JULY

David Lloyd George is appointed Secretary of State for War.



David Lloyd George © IWM (Q 41927)

7TH JULY

The Battle for Mametz Wood (the largest wood in the Somme region), commences. The 38th (Welsh) Division sustains 4000 casualties before the wood is captured from German forces on 12th July.

PC 122 Robert John Harris, PS 200 Richard Thomas and PC 89 William Edward Trinder, all of the Glamorgan Constabulary, are killed in action at Mametz Wood.

10TH JULY

PC 205 Edward Beresford and PC 766 William Henry Loud, of the Glamorgan Constabulary, are killed in action at Mametz Wood.

12TH JULY

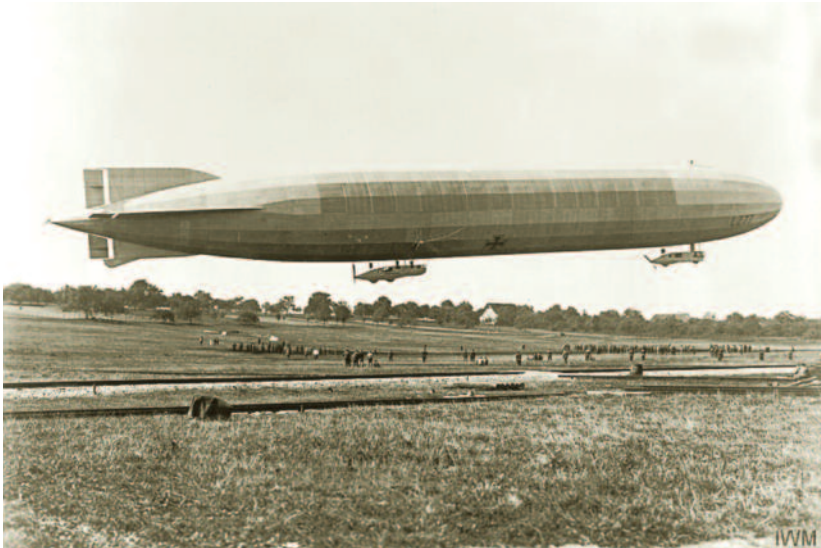
PC 363 Richard Hamer, of the Glamorgan Constabulary, dies of wounds in France.

18TH JULY

PC 138 Ernest Robert Helson, of the Swansea Borough Police, dies of wounds in Belgium.

3RD AUGUST

Irish nationalist, Sir Roger Casement, is hanged at Pentonville Prison, London, for treason after inciting Irish support for the German war effort.



*A German Zeppelin
(This one was shot down in France in February 1916) © IWM (Q 58481)*

3RD SEPTEMBER

The first German Zeppelin airship is shot down over Britain by the Royal Flying Corps.

10TH SEPTEMBER

During the Battle of the Somme, PC 576 Edward John Edwards, PC 117 Henry Morgan Jones, and PC 77 Arthur Richmond Perkins, of the Glamorgan Constabulary, and PC 57 Reginald Lovis of the Merthyr Borough Police are all killed in action. PC 684 William Jones, of the Glamorgan Constabulary, and PC 26 Aubrey

Alfred Smale, of the Swansea Borough Police, die of wounds.

14TH SEPTEMBER

PC 634 Frederick Charles Lord, of the Glamorgan Constabulary, dies of wounds during the Battle of the Somme.

15TH SEPTEMBER

The first ever use of tanks in action takes place during the Battle of the Somme.

PC 629 George Robert Guy, of the Glamorgan Constabulary, is killed in action during the Battle.

16TH SEPTEMBER

PC 270 John Farley and PC 526 Augustus Harris, of the Glamorgan Constabulary, and PC Herbert James Fisher, of the Cardiff City Police, are all killed in action during the Battle of the Somme.

22ND SEPTEMBER

PC 292 Arthur Pugh, of the Glamorgan Constabulary, dies of wounds during the Somme Battle.

25TH SEPTEMBER

PC 730 Sidney Ambrose Phelps, of the Glamorgan Constabulary, is killed in action on the Somme.

18TH NOVEMBER

The end of the Battle of the Somme. The British have suffered over 400,000 casualties in the Battle.

7TH DECEMBER

David Lloyd George becomes Prime Minister and forms a coalition government.

8TH DECEMBER

PC 132 Jack Randall Birch, of the Swansea Borough Police, is killed in action in France.



Horse, soldier and mud: Beaumont Hamel, Somme, November 1916 © IWM (Q 1565)

ROLL OF HONOUR INTRODUCTION

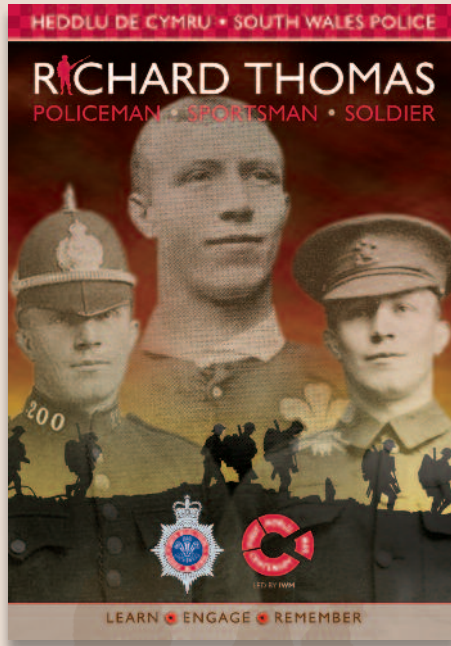
The Roll of Honour which follows remembers those police officers from our predecessor forces who died during 1916. As in previous years we have sought to provide as much information regarding them as we have been able to obtain through our researches.

1916 was, of course, the year of the Battle of the Somme which lasted from July to November. Eighteen of the total of twenty nine policemen who died during the year, lost their lives in the Battle. Five of them died at or near Mametz Wood at the beginning of July, four from the Welsh Regiment and one from

the South Staffordshire Regiment; the remaining thirteen, all from the Welsh Guards or the Grenadier Guards, died during a later phase of the Battle in September.

In order to avoid repetition in the individual biographies, we provide in this Introduction a brief summary of the background to the Battle and the fighting. It should also be mentioned that

fuller information regarding Mametz Wood is contained in our booklet “Richard Thomas: Policeman, Sportsman, Soldier.”



THE BATTLE OF THE SOMME

It began at 7.30am on 1st July but had been preceded by a massive, week long, artillery bombardment of German positions. The intention of the Allied offensive was to break the stalemate which had developed in the trench warfare of the Western Front and also to relieve pressure on French forces at the Battle of Verdun.

The bombardment was less successful than anticipated with the result that the British infantry

which attacked suffered heavy losses on the first day: nearly 20,000 killed out of total casualties of nearly 60,000.

Whilst there were some successes, the battle ebbed and flowed over the next four months until November by which time it had reached stalemate in the winter mud and was brought to an end. By then total British and Commonwealth casualties were over 400,000.



British artillery Fricourt-Mametz, August 1916 © IWM (Q5817)

THE BATTLE FOR MAMETZ WOOD

Mametz Wood was the largest wood in the Somme area. The 38th (Welsh) Division, was ordered to take it from the occupying German forces.

The Division was made up mainly of soldiers who had volunteered from across Wales in response to the recruitment campaign by Lord Kitchener, Secretary of State for War, for “New Armies” to meet the demands of the war.

Included in the Division were Battalions of the Welsh Regiment in which there were many policemen from our predecessor forces: the 16th (Cardiff City) Battalion, commanded by

Lieutenant Colonel Fred Smith, formerly a Glamorgan Police Inspector, the 14th Battalion, (the “Swansea Pals”), and the 10th (1st Rhondda) and 13th (2nd Rhondda) Battalions.

The main attacks were made on 7th July in which the Cardiff City Battalion suffered many casualties and 10th July when the Swansea and Rhondda Battalions were involved.

Eventually after much heavy fighting, the Wood was captured on 12th July. Nearly 4000 men of the Welsh Division had been killed, wounded or were missing as a result of the battle.



British officers in Mametz Wood, July 1916 © IWM (Q 868)

GINCHY AND LESBOEUF

During early July the Welsh Guards were in positions near Ypres. On 1st July, as part of the increased action in the sector to divert attention from what was happening in the Somme area, the 1st Battalion launched an attack on the ruins of an estaminet or cafe at Mortaldje which was being used by the Germans as a machine gun post. Although successful the raid did have its cost with 96 Welsh Guardsmen killed or wounded. The History of the Regiment in the First World War stated:

“It would not be such a wild stretch of the imagination to say that the Guards Division first took part in the Battle of the Somme while they were at Ypres. They were, at least, preventing troops and guns from taking part in that battle.”

Soon the Battalion was to be involved in the Somme area itself and took part in critical actions during September as part of the Guards Division.

The small village of Ginchy had been the scene of bitter fighting and on 9th September the Battalion supported an attack to capture it. Confusion arose as, although part of the village had

been taken, it had not been completely secured. At dawn the following day the Germans counter attacked and there followed fierce hand to hand fighting which ultimately led to success but inevitably at a cost as the Battalion sustained 205 casualties.

Then on 15th September the Guards Division received orders to capture the village of Lesboeufts, near Ginchy. The attack that day was held up and had to be renewed the following day. It was raining heavily and again there was great loss for the little ground which had been gained, the Welsh Guards suffering 144 killed, wounded or missing.

After a brief interlude the attack on Lesboeufts was taken up again on 25th September and was more successful. By mid afternoon the Battalion had achieved all its objectives other than one enemy position which was subdued after being attacked by a lone tank. (Tanks had been used in battle for the first time in the British attack on 15th September).

The Welsh Guards had, therefore, played their part in the capture of both Ginchy and Lesboeufts.

*British troops waiting to attack
near Ginchy, 25th September 1916
© IWM (Q 4290)*



1916 ROLL OF HONOUR

6TH JANUARY

**PC 61 WALTER
ARCHIBALD STUBBS**
MERTHYR BOROUGH POLICE
PRIVATE 9463 2ND BATTALION,
GRENADIER GUARDS



Walter was born in Monmouth in 1879, the second son of Henry and Mary Stubbs both of whom were from Herefordshire.

At the time of the census of 1891 the family was living in Redruth in Cornwall where Walter's father worked in a hotel. In addition to Walter and his parents also there were his sisters Alice, Annie and Charlotte and his brothers Alfred, Harry and Frederick.

Walter was educated at a private school in Ross in Herefordshire where his father came from. By the time of the census of 1901 he had joined the Grenadier Guards since he was then at the Guards Depot at Caterham in Surrey.

He served for seven years as a regular soldier and then left the army to join the Merthyr Borough

Police. At the census of 1911 he was living in the Borough police station in Treharris as a lodger, along with another constable and the station's sergeant and his family. Whilst with the force Walter played for its football team. Walter married Elizabeth Doe of Ton Pentre at Pontypridd in 1912 and on 14th May 1913 their son, Albert Ernest Walter, was born.

As a reservist Walter was recalled to the army on the outbreak of war in August 1914 re-joining his old regiment, the Grenadier Guards. It appears that he then served as an instructor at the Guards Depot before going to France on 6th November 1915 and joining the 2nd Battalion of the Grenadiers.

The Battalion's war diary indicates that on 6th January 1916 the Battalion was in trenches at Riez Bailleul in Northern France when it suffered two casualties, both wounded.

*Walter in his
footballing
days*



One of those was Walter who died of his wounds later that day at the 9th Field Ambulance Dressing Station.

Walter is buried nearby at Estaires in the Communal Cemetery and Extension. It contains 875 casualties of the First World War.

Walter is also remembered on the Merthyr Police Memorial Panel at the Police Station in Merthyr.

At a meeting of the Merthyr Borough Watch Committee held on 15th September 1916, it was agreed to make a payment to Walter's dependants from the police fund which the Chief Constable, Mr J.A. Wilson, stated would be about £30.



Estaires Communal Cemetery and Extension

20TH FEBRUARY

PC 760 DAVID TAFFINDER

GLAMORGAN CONSTABULARY
LANCE SERGEANT 23117
16TH BATTALION, WELSH
REGIMENT



David was born in 1894 in Ely, Cardiff. He was the son of William and Sarah Jane Taffinder both of whom were

originally from Somerset.

At the time of the census of 1901 William and Sarah were living with their children in Bowens Row, Ely. As well as David also there were David's brothers, William and Albert, and his sister Ethel who were all older than him, together with his younger brother, Ivor John.

By the census of 1911 David was living with his parents and Ivor John, in Britway Terrace, Cowbridge Road in Ely. His father's occupation was given as caretaker whilst David and Ivor were both labourers.

In 1913 David joined the

Glamorgan Constabulary and at the time of the outbreak of the war in August 1914 he was stationed in Maesteg. The *Glamorgan Gazette* of the 7th of that month contained a report of a case involving a man who was accused of breaking into the stores of the Bell Inn, Aberkenfig. The licensee, it was reported:

“..stated that he saw the defendant with other men go towards the stores where beer was stored and try to open the door, which was locked. In a few minutes they went away, and later he saw defendant with his boots off, go towards the stores again. Other men were with him, and they forced the door open. He went after them, and said something to the effect that he had a ‘good mind’ to blow their brains out. They then ran away.

P.C. Taffender, 760G, stated that he found the frame-work above the lock of the door very much damaged, and not far from the stores he discovered a pair of boots which fitted defendant. In reply to the charge defendant said, ‘I know nothing at all about it.’

Defendant repeated this declaration in Court, but he was sent to gaol for a month.”

Following the outbreak of war, David enlisted in the 16th (Cardiff City) Battalion of the Welsh Regiment at Bridgend. He went to France with the Battalion, as part of the 38th (Welsh) Division in December 1915. In due course he was promoted to Lance Sergeant.

On 19th February 1916 the Battalion took up position in the front line trenches at Locon near Festubert. In a letter to David's parents, Sergeant Stevens of the Battalion described what happened to him:

“Our battalion was in the trenches at the time, and about 5am, your son was sent on patrol duty. Whilst thus engaged he received two wounds from snipers’ bullets. His cry for help was heard by the lads of his section, and immediately two of them went to his assistance and brought him in under heavy machine gun fire.

The news of his death came as a great shock to us all, as he made so light of his wounds that we thought they were slight.

‘Taff’ as we called him, was loved by all the lads, and they would have followed him anywhere. He was my pal...and right-hand man. We were always together in dug-out or barn.”

David died of his wounds on 20th February 1916 and is buried at Le Touret Military Cemetery, Richebourg-L’Avoue. There are over 900 other First World War casualties buried there. In addition, there is a memorial to over 13,000 servicemen who died in the area before September 1915 and who have no known grave.

On 16th February 1917, the following notice appeared in the *Glamorgan Gazette*:

“In Loving Memory of David Taffinder, who died of wounds received in action on February 20th, 1916

*Though death divides,
Fond memories cling
- from Lizzie Davies”*

David is commemorated on the Glamorgan Police War Memorial at Police Headquarters, Bridgend.

His brothers, Albert and John also served in the army during the war. Both survived.



Le Touret Military Cemetery, Richebourg-L’Avoue

7TH MARCH

**PC 270 JOSEPH
PATRICK DEEHAN**

GLAMORGAN CONSTABULARY

GUNNER 10001

ROYAL MARINES ARTILLERY

According to naval service records, Joseph was born in Mungret near Limerick in Ireland on 17th March 1884. (His police records differ and give his date of birth as 9th March 1885). He enlisted in the Royal Marines at Londonderry on 3rd April 1902 prior to which he had worked as a farm labourer.

He served for 12 years before being discharged on 2nd April 1914 whereupon he became a reservist in the Royal Fleet Reserve. During his regular service he saw service on the following ships:

HMS Empress of India: this was a battleship of 14,000 tons which was built at Pembroke Dock in 1889 and launched in 1891. She had a crew of over 700. Joseph served on it from February 1904 to February 1905. She and other battleships of her class were superseded by the Dreadnought battleships and she was sunk as a target ship in 1913.

HMS Hannibal: another pre Dreadnought battleship, she was built at Pembroke Dock and launched in 1896. Of 16,000 tons she had a crew of over 600 men. Joseph served on her between February and August 1905 when the ship formed part of the Channel Fleet. Later during the First World War she saw service as a troopship during the Gallipoli campaign. After the war she was sold as scrap and broken up.

HMS Trafalgar: a battleship of over 12,000 tons built in Portsmouth and launched in 1887. She had a crew of nearly 600 men. Joseph served on her between February 1906 and January 1907 when she was in reserve and used at various times as a guardship and for drills. She was sold for scrap in 1912.

HMS Indefatigable: built at Devonport and launched in 1909, this was a battlecruiser of over 18,000 tons. Joseph served on her between February 1911, when she was first commissioned into the Royal Navy, and December 1913. Indefatigable was sunk on 31st May 1916 by shells from a German ship during the Battle of

Jutland, the largest naval battle of the First World War. Only two of her crew of 1,019 survived.

After his discharge from the Royal Marines in 1914 Joseph joined the Glamorgan Constabulary but served for only a short period as he resigned from the Force on 2nd August 1914 when he was recalled to naval service shortly before the formal declaration of war by Britain. At that time Joseph was stationed at Llanishen, Cardiff as a constable.

He served with the Royal Naval Air Service Armoured Car Squadron in France in September and October 1914 and with the Royal Marines Artillery at Ostend in October 1914. Between August and October 1915 he was with the Royal Marines Artillery Anti Aircraft Brigade in France. It appears he then contracted

tuberculosis which led to him being discharged from the Royal Marines at Londonderry Hospital on 26th January 1916. He died from the disease at 55 Dungavin Road, Londonderry, on 7th March 1916. It appears that he left a sister, Winifred, and a brother, John.

Joseph's place of burial is not known but he is commemorated on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's 1914-1918 Memorial at Brookwood Cemetery in Surrey which records the names of those who died during the First World War and who are not commemorated elsewhere. Joseph's details were accepted by the Commission for commemoration in 2005. Joseph's name also appears on the Glamorgan Police War Memorial and on the Memorial at St Isan's Church in Llanishen, Cardiff.



The 1914-18 Memorial at Brookwood Cemetery

13TH MARCH

**PC 533 JOHN
ALFRED GRIFFITHS**
GLAMORGAN CONSTABULARY
SERGEANT 17945
14TH BATTALION
WELSH REGIMENT



John was a Pembroke-shire man having been born at Walwyn's Castle near Haverford-

west in February 1889. He had an older brother, Joseph Stephen Griffiths, who subsequently lived in Aberaman, Aberdare. Their mother was Mary who later married a George Richards who had been born in Deptford, London. At the time of the census of 1911, John, his mother and his step father lived at 5 Fleet Street, Pennar, Pembroke Dock where George Richards was employed in the Naval Dockyard as a shipwright. Also living at home were John's half brothers Alfred, Thomas, Frederick, Walter, George and Ivor along with his half sister, Lucy. At that time John was employed as a labourer. On 29th November 1913, John joined

the Glamorgan Constabulary and at the outbreak of war in 1914 he was stationed at Mumbles, near Swansea. On 20th November 1914 he resigned from the police force in order that he could, three days later, enlist in the 14th Battalion of the Welsh Regiment, the "Swansea Pals". They formed part of the 38th (Welsh Division) and, after training in North Wales and southern England, went to France on 2nd December 1915.



John seated left with Glamorgan Police colleagues from Mumbles, PC Roberts (standing) and PC Hamens (seated), who also joined the Swansea Battalion

John's leadership qualities were clearly recognised early on because he had a succession of promotions: Lance Corporal on 9th December 1914, Corporal on 13th February 1915, Lance Sergeant on 18th May 1915 and finally to Sergeant on 27th November 1915.

In France, after a period of training in trench warfare, the Swansea Battalion was in the front line at Givenchy by March 1916. On the 13th of the month the Battalion's War Diary records that it suffered 12 casualties: 1 killed and 11 wounded. John was the man killed in action.

When he died he was 27 years of age and single. He was clearly highly regarded in the Battalion, as evidenced by a letter written to his father by Lieutenant H. Jones

Williams and subsequently quoted in the *South Wales Daily Post*:

"I assure you that you have the heartfelt sympathy of every officer and man in our company. I, personally, shall miss your son very much, and I feel as if I had lost one of my best friends. He was a splendid soldier, and in your great sorrow you have the consolation of knowing that he fell bravely fighting for King and Country and his loved ones at home."

John is buried in the Guards Cemetery, Windy Corner, Cuinchy near Bethune in Northern France. It contains 3,445 burials and commemorations of the First World War.

John's name also appears on the Glamorgan Police War Memorial.



Guards Cemetery, Windy Corner, Cuinchy near Bethune

8TH MAY

PC 62 EDWARD JOHN TAYLOR

GLAMORGAN CONSTABULARY

LANCE CORPORAL 1385

1ST BATTALION

WELSH GUARDS

Edward was born at Llanvihangel Gobion near Abergavenny in 1890, the son of George and Susan Taylor. He had several brothers and sisters. His father was a farm labourer who was originally from Herefordshire and his mother was from Breconshire.

At the census of 1911, Edward was living with his brother William and his wife and children at Llanddewi Rhydderch, another village near Abergavenny. William worked for the Great Western Railway Company whilst Edward's occupation is described as "waggoner on farm."

Edward joined the Glamorgan Constabulary in 1914 and was stationed at Maesteg at the outbreak of war. He enlisted in the army on 10th May 1915 at Bridgend, joining the Welsh Guards. After a period of training at the Guards Depot at Caterham, he sailed from Southampton to

France on 16th September 1915 and joined the 1st Battalion on 29th September.

By May 1916 the Battalion was at Potijze near Ypres in Belgium. On the 7th the Battalion came under heavy fire from German artillery and trench mortars and suffered 5 casualties, 1 killed and 4 wounded. Patrols were sent out into No Man's Land and gathered what the Battalion's War Diary described as "useful information."

The history of the regiment in the First World War contains the following description of what it was like on 7th May:

"We went back to Ypres by train on the 7th and found the Huns were shelling hard-the roads, the railway and the town. When we marched into the town we found the roads blocked with traffic-a mass of transport wagons and artillery limbers. The Hun was pumping shells into the Square and the Menin Gate. Every now and then an artillery limber would disentangle itself and go galloping across, making a fiendish noise on the cobbles. Finally we got across the Square, and when we reached the Menin Gate found the Hun was shelling

the road like mad. I don't know why we were not caught. Our luck was that most of the shells fell by the side, and those that fell on the road did not fall on us. This went on till the early hours of the morning, and started again at midday. They confined themselves mostly to the roads, but it was a heavy affair."

On the 8th there was wind and rain all day and the German bombardment did reduce. Nevertheless there were 7 casualties during the day including two killed, one of whom was Edward. Also killed that day was Private 864 Percy Larkham Price

of the Welsh Guards who was aged 21 and the son of Howell and Annie Price of 156 Jubilee Road, New Tredegar.

The *Abergavenny Chronicle* of 2nd June 1916 reported that Edward had been killed and referred to a letter to his mother from the Battalion's Chaplain who wrote:

"His loss is much felt by the battalion. He was a first-rate soldier and had been lately recommended for promotion to full corporal. He was buried at dawn in a cemetery reserved for soldiers, and everything was done as reverently as possible:



Potijze Burial Ground Cemetery, near Ypres

I was able to take the funeral service without undue hurry. It was very solemn and quiet. His grave will be cared for as much as possible, and the battalion will have it marked with a white cross bearing his name."

The newspaper report went on to state:

"Corporal Taylor was a fine soldier, physically strong, tall and active. Always cheerful, he would keep a company in the best of spirits, and we are not surprised to hear that he was very popular with the battalion. The greatest sympathy is felt with his mother, sister and family in their loss."

Edward was 26 when he died and was, as indicated above, survived by his mother, his father having, by then, died.

Edward and Private Price are buried near each other at Potijze Burial Ground Cemetery, near Ypres, in Belgium. There are 584 burials from the First World War in the cemetery.

Edward is also commemorated on the Glamorgan Police War Memorial.

25TH MAY

PC 68 THOMAS VOYLE MORGAN MERTHYR BOROUGH POLICE PRIVATE 951 1ST BATTALION, WELSH GUARDS

Thomas Voyle Morgan ("Tom" or "TV" as he was known) was originally from Carmarthenshire. He was born at Glancothi Lodge, Cothi Bridge ("Pontargoethi") in the Parish of Llanegwad near Carmarthen on 26th December

1888. He was baptised at Llanegwad on 5th May 1889.

Tom was the son of John Morgan, a policeman, and his wife, Elizabeth Alma. His father had been born in Llanpumpsaint and his mother had been born in Pembrey. Elizabeth's father, George Voyle, had also been a policeman.

At the time of the census of 1891 the family lived in the village of Llansteffan in Carmarthenshire.



In addition to Tom, also at home at that time were his brothers, George Osman and Garnet and his sisters Sarah Rosanna and Mary Alma, all of whom were older than Tom. Also there was Tom's widowed grandmother, Roseanna Voyle.

By 1901 and that year's census, the family still lived in Llansteffan but by then Tom's father had retired from the police and his occupation was given as postman. There was also another child, Emily May.



The Morgan family at Llansteffan in about 1896. Left to right at rear: George Osman, Sarah Rosanna, and John (father); front: Mary Alma, Emily May, Elizabeth Alma (mother), Thomas Voyle and Garnet

In 1908 Merthyr Tydfil was granted borough status and as a result formed its own police force, the town having previously been policed by the Glamorgan Constabulary. Tom became one of its first constables and during his service was stationed at Troedyrhiw and Dowlais.

At the time of the census of 1911, Tom was living as a lodger with Sergeant William Lewis, also of the Merthyr Police, and his wife, Mary, at 43 Taldwyn Terrace, Troedyrhiw. Sergeant Lewis came from Clydach in the Swansea Valley whilst his wife was from the nearby village of Glais. Also lodging in the house was Tom's Merthyr Police colleague, PC 57 Reginald Lovis who was also to die whilst serving with the Welsh Guards (see later).

Tom enlisted in the army on 8th April 1915, joining the 1st Battalion of the newly formed Welsh Guards. He underwent a period of initial training and before leaving for the front he married Mary Jane James of Troedyrhiw at Ebenezer Chapel, Merthyr, on 15th August 1915.

Tom sailed from Southampton for France on 16th September and joined the Battalion on the 29th as

it recovered from the severe fighting it had been involved in at the Battle of Loos.

At Christmas time 1915 the Battalion was in the line at Laventie in France. In a letter to his family, Tom said:

"I guess you all enjoyed yourself over the Xmas holidays. I spent mine in the trenches so it was not very pleasant. I received parcel safe but in a broken condition. Cake all smashed up...."

By May 1915 the Battalion was in reserve at Poperinghe in Belgium. On the 12th they were billeted to the south of the town. During the day there was some German shelling in the area. Records indicate that Tom suffered serious wounds to the head resulting in a fractured skull possibly as a consequence of the shell fire. He was treated initially at the 3rd Canadian Casualty Clearing Station and then the 10th Casualty Clearing Station both at Remy near Lijssesthoek, Belgium, before being moved to the Number 6 British Red Cross Hospital at Etaples on the French coast. It was there that he died on 25th May 1916 aged 27.

The *Carmarthen Journal* for 9th June 1916 carried the following report:

“Another native of Llanstephan has given his life for his country in the person of Pte. Tom Voyle Morgan, of the Welsh Guards..... He was taken to the Red Cross Hospital at Etaples France, where he died on 25th ult. He bore his pain bravely to the end. Pte. Morgan was a son of the late ex P.C. John Morgan and Mrs. Morgan, formerly residing at Ty-mawr, and a grandson of the late ex P.C. George Voyle, Llanddarog, and the late Mr. Thomas Morgan, Llanpumpsaint Mill. In 1908 deceased joined the new Borough Police Force at Merthyr Tydfil; he had been stationed at Troedyrhiw and Dowlais, from where he joined the Welsh Guards in April, 1915; and was drafted to France in September last, having seen some severe fighting since that period. He volunteered to go tunnelling about three weeks ago, and was only at this work for a couple of days ere receiving the fatal wound. In August last he married Miss May James, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James,

41, Taldwyn Terrace, Troedyrhiw, who today mourns his loss. His mother also is grief stricken at the loss of her son, as are also the remaining two brothers and three sisters. During the period of his youth spent at Llanstephan, “T.V” as he was fondly known, was a general favourite, being a quiet, willing and respectful lad, and the news of his early death will be received by his many friends with sincere sorrow. The deepest sympathy of the district is extended to the sorrowing widow and mother, and relatives, who are well known in several districts of Carmarthenshire, where the late Pte. Morgan’s father, ex P.C. John Morgan, was stationed while in the County Police Force.”

Tom is buried at the Etaples Military Cemetery which is about 27km south of Boulogne. This is the largest Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemetery in France and contains the graves of 10,771 casualties of the First World War. During the war the area around Etaples contained a great concentration of military facilities. At one stage there were eleven general hospitals, one

stationary hospital, four Red Cross hospitals and a convalescent depot which could deal with a total of 22,000 patients.

Also buried at Etaples is Private 103 Albert Hollyman of the 1st Battalion, Welsh Guards who died on 21st October 1918. Before the war he was a constable in the Cardiff City Police.

Tom is commemorated on the Merthyr Borough Police First World War Panel and also on the Llansteffan War Memorial.

In Etaples, the headstone to Tom's grave has on it an inscription chosen by his wife. They were married for less than a year before his death. It sums up her sense of loss, and that of countless others during the war:

“In life I loved you dearly. In death I do the same.”



Etaples Military Cemetery

1ST JULY

PC GEORGE HENRY LOCK

CARDIFF CITY POLICE

PRIVATE 1347 1ST BATTALION

WELSH GUARDS



George was born in Cardiff in 1890, the son of George Henry Lock, the chief Inspector of Cardiff

Corporation Public Works Department who originated from Devon.

At the time of the census of 1911, George, then aged 20 was living at 3 Trade Street, Grangetown in Cardiff. Also living in the household were his father and his father's mother, Hannah, a widow aged 78, together with George's married sister, Gertrude Alice Hopgood, aged 24, and her husband, Ernest Hopgood, aged 25. At that time George was employed as a bricklayer. George appears to have also had two other sisters: Grace Evelyn, and Emma Kate, who was married to a Detective Sergeant John Pugsley of the Cardiff City Police.

George also subsequently joined the Cardiff City Police and served with them before the war including a period of service at the force's headquarters.

Newspaper reports referring to George state that he was an accomplished athlete and took part in several sports. Indeed, the *Western Mail* of 23rd January 1914 reported that in the three all drawn football match between the Cardiff Press and City Police played at Ninian Park, it was George who, in the last few minutes of the match, scored the equalising goal. His team was not so fortunate, however, in March of that year when George played against the Merthyr Police who ran out winners by four goals to two, in the presence of Cardiff's Chief Constable, David Williams.

George enlisted in the army at Cardiff on 29th April 1915 and joined the 1st Battalion of the Welsh Guards. He went with the Battalion to France in August 1915, landing at Le Havre on the 18th. Ahead lay the severe test that the Battalion faced during the heavy fighting at the Battle of Loos in September and October of that year.

By the end of June 1916 the Battalion was in the front line near Ypres in Belgium. As preparations were then under way for the Allied offensive on the Somme to commence on 1st July every effort was to be made to keep the Germans occupied around Ypres.

At one point in the German line there were the ruins of an estaminet (cafe) at Mortaldje which the Germans used as a site for machine guns to attack the British positions. Orders were, therefore, given to the Welsh

Guards to attack Mortaldje on the night of 1st/2nd July. It was to be undertaken by Number 4 Company and it was during the ensuing fighting that George was killed in action. The History of the Welsh Guards in the First World War gives the following description:

“2nd July - we took the position last night, but all is not yet well. When we filed into our places in the trench all was deathly quiet - much too quiet - and lights were going up in a jumpy manner, or



The Menin Gate Memorial at Ypres where George Henry Lock is commemorated

so it seemed to me, from the estaminet. I think Evan Thomas started to get out slightly ahead of time, which was to be one minute before the artillery. At all events, they were seen immediately, and the Huns opened fire on them. I heard Sergt. Mathias yell out 'Come on', and then our guns started with a swish and a roar, and I don't quite know what happened. I heard afterwards that Evan Thomas, Sergt. Mathias, Sergt. Jellyman, and a man named Lock, who used to be the C.O's servant, arrived far ahead of the rest. The Germans fled, though one stayed to fire point blank at Lock, who was killed."

In addition to George, four others from the Welsh Guards died on 1st July. They were: Second Lieutenant Guy Crawford-Wood aged 21, the son of James Crawford-Wood JP of Banbury, Corporal S. Kiernan from Flintshire, Lance Corporal William James Williams of the Glamorgan Constabulary (see next section) and Private William Henry Viggers, aged 24, the son of George and Martha Jane Viggers of 59 Cecil Street, Roath, Cardiff.

The history of the Regiment referred to Crawford-Wood's death:

"Crawford-Wood was a great loss. He was a good looking, most gallant and active youngster, and feared nothing in the way of a German or any of their weapons."

George was 25 years of age when he died. He has no known grave but is commemorated on the Menin Gate Memorial at Ypres. He is also remembered on the Cardiff City Police Memorial at the Cardiff Bay Police Station.

1ST JULY

**PC 225 WILLIAM
JAMES WILLIAMS**
GLAMORGAN CONSTABULARY
LANCE CORPORAL I 101
1ST BATTALION
WELSH GUARDS

William was born in Llantrisant in 1888, the son of Richard and Catherine Williams. His father was originally from Menai Bridge on Anglesey whilst his mother was from Llantrisant.

At the time of the census of 1901 when William was 13, the family lived in High Street,



PC 225 William James Williams

Llantrisant. William's father's occupation is given as carpenter joiner whilst William is described as a coal miner/hewer underground. Also in the household were William's mother, his sisters Ann and Gwendoline and his brothers Thomas, John and Baden all of whom were younger than him.

On 21st November 1908 William joined the Glamorgan Constabulary and on 26th August 1912 he married Emily Stephens at Whitchurch in Cardiff.

At the outbreak of war William was stationed at Heolycyw near Bridgend but resigned from the police on 27th November 1914 so that he could enlist in the army which he did at Bridgend on 30th November. He was initially Private 5873 in the Dragoon Guards but transferred to the Welsh Guards on 16th April 1915 and was soon promoted to Lance Corporal on 23rd June 1915.

The Welsh Guards had been formed in February 1915 and went to France in August that year. It was soon thrust into the bitter fighting during the Battle of Loos which claimed the lives of several of William's colleagues from the Glamorgan Constabulary. William himself arrived in France on 16th September just before the commencement of the Battle on the 25th.

As has been described in the entry concerning George Henry Lock, William was killed in action on 1st July 1916 during the

Battalion's attack at Mortadlje. The *Western Mail* of 8th July reported his death:

“Private William Williams, of the Welsh Guards, has been killed in action. He was a constable in the Glamorgan Force, and was a magnificently built man, standing 6ft 1 in. Formerly he was stationed at Whitchurch, but latterly at Heolycyw. He was a nephew of Councillor James Taylor, Cardiff.”

William is buried at Brandhoek Military Cemetery which lies between Ypres and Poperinghe. There too lie Second Lieutenant

Guy Crawford-Wood and Corporal Kiernan of the Welsh Guards who also died on 1st July. There are a total of 669 First World War burials in the cemetery.

William left a widow, Emily of Glancynon Terrace, Abercynon. On the headstone to his grave is the inscription:

*“Though lost to sight,
to memory ever dear”*

William is also remembered on the Glamorgan Police War Memorial.



Brandhoek Military Cemetery

7TH JULY

PC 122 ROBERT JOHN HARRIS

GLAMORGAN CONSTABULARY

SERGEANT 23140

16TH BATTALION

WELSH REGIMENT



Robert or “Bob”, as he seems to have been known, was born on 20th January 1887 at Ynysybwl,

Pontypridd. He was the son of John Harris, originally from Breconshire, and his wife, Martha, who had been born in Ynysybwl.

At the census of 1901 the family lived at Brynteg, Ynysybwl. Also in the household at this time, along with Bob and his parents, were Bob’s six brothers and two sisters. Bob, then aged 14, was employed as a coal miner as was his father and two of his brothers.

In due course, Bob left the mining industry and, on 31st October, 1908, he joined the Glamorgan Constabulary. At the time of the census of 1911 he was lodging at Nantymoel Police

Station and he later served at Aberkenfig.

After the outbreak of war he joined the Welsh Regiment and served with the 16th (Cardiff City) Battalion which as part of the 38th (Welsh) Division landed in France in December 1915.

The Battalion took part in the attack on Mametz Wood on 7th July 1916 and suffered heavy casualties, Bob being one of those killed in action on that day. A subsequent newspaper report of his death describes him as being “exceedingly popular among the officers and men of the Glamorgan Constabulary.”

Also killed on the same day was his police colleague from Bridgend, Richard “Dick” Thomas of the 16th Battalion.

Bob was 29 when he died and was survived by his parents who, according to Commonwealth War Graves Commission records, then lived at Llechwen Farm, Ynysybwl.

Bob has no known grave and is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, the Glamorgan Police War Memorial and the War Memorial at Ynysybwl.

7TH JULY

PS 200 RICHARD THOMAS

GLAMORGAN CONSTABULARY
COMPANY SERGEANT
MAJOR 24093 16TH BATTALION
WELSH REGIMENT



Richard (or “Dick” as he was popularly known) Thomas was a notable figure in the communities of South Wales

through his service as a police officer and also his sporting prowess particularly as a Welsh international rugby player.

He was born at 41 Long Row, Ferndale on 14th October 1880 the son of Joseph Jones Thomas, a coal miner, and his wife, Mary Ann Thomas.

Dick joined the Glamorgan Constabulary on 4th November 1904 having previously worked as a coal miner. He served as a policeman in the Aberdare, Ystrad Mynach and Bridgend Divisions of the Force. On 16th August 1913, he was promoted to sergeant and was stationed at Bridgend at the commencement of the First World War.

He played rugby for several clubs-Ferndale, Penygraig, Cardiff, Mountain Ash, Llwynypia, and Bridgend-as well as for the Glamorgan Police team which had been established in 1897. Whilst playing for Mountain Ash he won four international caps for Wales the first being against South Africa in 1906. In the following season of 1907-8 he played against France (the first time the two countries had played each other) and then against Ireland when Wales completed the Grand Slam for the first time. His final international appearance was against Scotland in 1909. He also played for the Glamorgan Police team in its last game before the First World War when it beat his home town team of Ferndale.



Whilst Dick was highly regarded in rugby circles as a hard playing and skilful forward, he was also a notable boxer winning the Glamorgan Police heavyweight championship on three occasions. In addition he won the Glamorgan and Monmouthshire Constabularies assault at arms competition in 1909.

The *Western Mail* of 4th March 1914 carried a report of an assault at arms competition held at the Park Hall, Cardiff in which Dick fought against a Constable Oliver Williams of the Newport Police in the semi final with the referee stopping the fight in the first round in favour of Dick. He had been due to fight against a fellow Glamorgan Police officer, PC Charles Hutchings of Whitchurch, in the final but Hutchings had been injured during his semi final contest and withdrew. Dick was, therefore, declared the winner and presented with what the report described as “a valuable silver cup.”

Dick had, however, been less successful at the fifth Welsh Amateur Boxing Championships held at the Park Hall, Cardiff, the

previous month, February 1914, when he had contested the final of the heavy weight championship with a W.H. Bradley of Cardiff after Dick had, in the words of the *Western Mail* report of 16th February, “knocked out W. Scott (St James’s Newport) with two punches” in the semi final. It was, however, another story in the final as the report continues:

“Dick Thomas had to face a redoubtable opponent in W. H. Bradley (of Cardiff) in the final. Bradley.... looked very little troubled when Thomas started shooting punches at him with right and left. When the old international tired perceptibly Bradley opened out in really classy style. A shower of upper cuts and straight lefts soon sent Thomas to the boards. Before the end of the round Bradley became the first heavy weight amateur of Wales.”

Along with many other Glamorgan policemen Dick Thomas joined the 16th Battalion of the Welsh Regiment after the outbreak of the war. Among those who also did so were Inspector F.W. (“Fred”) Smith and Sergeant J.R. Angus both of whom had

been members of the Glamorgan Police rugby team. Dick joined as a private soldier but his qualities of leadership were soon recognised and he was in due course promoted to be company sergeant major.

He landed in France with the 16th Battalion as part of 115th Brigade, 38th (Welsh) Division on 4th December 1915. During its early days on the Western Front the Battalion suffered casualties including its then Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Frank Gaskell who was shot by a sniper and died of his wounds on 17th May 1916. He was buried the following day and the Battalion War Diary records that Fred Smith and Dick were among those who attended.

On 7th July 1916 the 16th Battalion attacked Mametz Wood in an attempt to clear it of German troops. It was the largest wood on the Somme and it was defended tenaciously. The Battalion came under heavy fire and Dick was one of nearly 300 casualties the Battalion suffered that day. Many years later a surviving veteran of the attack, William Davies, described what he

saw in an interview with the BBC re-broadcast in August 2014:

“I remember one man, he was an old Welsh rugby international forward. CSM Dick Thomas from Mountain Ash. He was CSM in the Cardiff City Battalion. He was a big, huge man. Lying down in front of me, not far in front of me and he got up on his knees and two hands you know, knees on the ground. Went down head to the ground. Killed like that. Just in front of me. And I hid behind him all day.”

Dick’s Glamorgan Police colleague and Commanding Officer of his Battalion, Fred Smith, wrote to his widow on 15th July 1916:

“I am deeply grieved to tell you that your husband, my old friend Dick, was killed in action on the 7th July whilst attacking a wood. He died at once and did not suffer. I had already recommended him for the Military Cross for his gallantry and splendid example to his men. Poor Sergeant Harris (late of our force) was killed at the same time, and of course many others in the Battalion. We all miss Dick’s smiling face, and



Dick Thomas with his wife and daughter

wish he could return to us, and we all extend to you our sincere sympathy on this your great loss, yours, Fred Smith, Lieutenant-colonel, O.C..”

The *Glamorgan Gazette* for 21st July 1916 carried the following report under the heading “Local Constabulary Heroes-International Footballer Killed”:

“The terribleness of the war is being brought home to us lately in Bridgend.” Thus said the Rector of Coity (Rev. T.P. Price), writing from Cardiganshire, in a sympathetic letter to the bereaved widow of Company-Sergeant-Major Richard Thomas, of Bridgend, formerly a member of the Glamorgan Constabulary; and the truth of this remark is almost daily insistently being brought home to us, as one family after another is plunged into grief, and the community, knowing the families and the circumstances, is called upon to mourn with the mourners. The first announcement of the death of Company-Srgt-Major Richard Thomas came from Regimental Sergeant Major John Thomas,

who was his fellow police sergeant at Bridgend. In a letter to his wife, written on July 10th and received on Saturday afternoon, Company Sergeant Major John Thomas said:-“Just a line to let you know I am all right. Wish I could say the same about all the other boys. Poor Dick Thomas was killed yesterday morning where the big fighting that you read about in the newspapers is going on. Captain Herdman and he were leading the company into action, and Dick was about the first to be knocked over. The captain was wounded. Bob Harris was also killed near the same spot. Trinder was wounded and is now in hospital. No doubt it will be a terrible shock to Mrs. Thomas. Colonel Smith is all right, but we are very much upset over the loss of Dick. He used to keep the lot of us alive with his jokes.”

The “Bob Harris” referred to (also exceedingly popular amongst the officers and men of the Glamorgan Constabulary) was formerly Sergt. R. J. Harris, who was stationed at Aberkenfig, and for a time at Nantymoel, and whose home

was at Llechwaun Farm, Ynysybwll. Both were in the same battalion of the Welsh Regiment, joining with Inspector Fred Smith. “Trinder” is PC William Trinder who was stationed at Caerau, Maesteg. His home is in Gloucestershire. Captain Herdman, who was wounded in the abdomen and both arms, is a Bridgend boy, and a son of the late Mr. J. Herdman, mining engineer to the Dunraven Estate, a position to which a few years ago Capt. Herdman succeeded on the death of his father.”

The report concluded with these remarks about Dick:

“Only a few weeks ago he spent a brief furlough with his family at Bridgend. He was of a genial disposition, and was extremely popular not only as a football player, but as a police officer in every place where he had been stationed. He was 36 years of age, and leaves a widow and two children to mourn the loss of one who was well beloved by all his comrades, and by all the people who knew him in the sphere in which he moved.”

A Sergeant Caleb Morris of

Aberdare wrote a poem as a tribute to the members of the Glamorgan Constabulary who had served during the war. One verse is dedicated to Dick:

*“Another hero, strong
and tall,
A master with the gloves
and ball,
A football player, lithe
and bold,
An International of old.
He won his cap for
strength and dash-
I mean Dick Thomas,
Mountain Ash;
A Sergeant Major at the
Front
Was in the van, as e'er
his wont.
Poor Dick is numbered
with the slain,
And buried on a foreign
plain.....”*

Like so many others Dick has no known grave and is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing of the Somme.

Dick is also remembered on the Glamorgan Police War Memorial.

7TH JULY

**PC 89 WILLIAM
EDWARD TRINDER**
GLAMORGAN CONSTABULARY
LANCE CORPORAL 3268 I
16TH BATTALION
WELSH REGIMENT

William was born in Winstone, near Cirencester on 21st May 1886. He was the son of John James Trinder and his wife, Joanna, both of whom were from Gloucestershire, John having been born in North Cerney and Joanna in Winchcombe.

At the census of 1901 William and his parents and his younger sisters, Amy and Annie, were living in the village of Syde near Cirencester. It appears from the earlier census of 1891 that William also had two older sisters, Emily and Clara.

In 1901 William's father was employed on a farm as a cattle man whilst William, then aged 14, was also working on a farm as a carter.

William joined the Glamorgan Constabulary on 5th December 1908. At the time of the census of 1911 he is shown as being a boarder at the Miskin Hotel, Trealaw in the Rhondda along with

a sergeant and five other constables from the Glamorgan Constabulary. They were presumably billeted there in connection with the policing of the industrial unrest in the area at that time.

During his police service William was stationed at Caerau, near Maesteg, and the local newspaper reported on several cases in which William had been involved:

- In January 1914 William and another police officer had attended at a house in Caerau to serve a warrant on the man living there. He attempted to make his escape and the police officers were attacked by the man's wife and daughters. The *Glamorgan Gazette* for 27th February 1914 reported what happened (William is the "witness" in the report):
"His wifethen came out and caught hold of prisoner and tried to pull him away and shouted for help. Her two daughters came out with bottles in their hands and struck witness and PC Richards on the back and on the back of the neck with them and also caught hold of their father

and tried to pull him away. They tore all the man's clothes off him in the scuffle and it was with great difficulty that witness got the man into the lane at the back. The two girls followed, throwing stones and bottles. Ultimately they got the man away. For several days witness could not move his head owing to the effect of the blows on his neck."

Sadly it seems that a baby had died and was in the house at the time of the incident although William and his colleague were unaware of that until later. A Superintendent Davies told the court that because of that and the fact the money owed under the warrant had been paid the arrested man had been released. As for his wife and daughters, as they had not previously been before a court, they were fined 10s each.

- Under the heading of "GOOD WORK BY POLICE", the *Glamorgan Gazette* for 15th May 1914 reported: *"The lock up shop premises of Mr. Albert Williams, greengrocer, of Caerau Road, Caerau, were discovered to be*

on fire by the police at 4.30am on Sunday. Sergt. Davies and P. C. Trinder, with several other constables, were on the scene in a few minutes, and found the fire had got a firm hold, and that the interior was in a mass of flames. Valuable time was lost in obtaining fire appliances owing to the fact that the key of the fire shed was kept at a neighbouring farm, and was not available until the farmer was awakened. The stand-pipe and hose were attached to a hydrant in Caerau road, and after about ten minutes' work the officers succeeded in getting the fire under control. Had it not been for the splendid work of the police, and many willing helpers, including P.C. Culleton (works constable), the adjacent buildings would have been involved. The cause of the fire is unknown. The damage was not very great. Mrs. Williams stated that she left the premises about midnight after securing them."

- In a case reported by the *Glamorgan Gazette* on 9th April 1915, William had investigated thefts of several items from two pubs in Caerau including money, a

wrist watch and false teeth which had been taken from a barmaid's bedroom in one of the pubs. The man charged with stealing the property had sent them to himself in a registered parcel. It was at Cardiff Post Office that William later recovered the wrist watch together with the false teeth! The Defendant was sent to prison for four months on each charge.

During 1915 William left the police and enlisted in the army at Bridgend, joining the 16th (Cardiff City) Battalion of the Welsh Regiment with whom he went to France in December 1915.

He took part in his Battalion's attack on Mametz Wood on 7th July 1916 and was killed in action. He has no known grave and is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial and the Glamorgan Police War Memorial.

10TH JULY

PC 205 EDWARD BERESFORD

GLAMORGAN CONSTABULARY
SERGEANT 14215
8TH BATTALION, SOUTH
STAFFORDSHIRE REGIMENT



Edward was born on 15th May 1888. His place of birth is described differently in different records. For example, the census of 1891 gives it as Oldbury in Worcestershire whilst the census of 1911 states that he was born in Netherton, Worcestershire.

In any event, in 1891 the family was living in Albert Street East in Oldbury. Edward's father, also called Edward, was from Rowley Regis in Staffordshire and was employed as a coal miner, whilst Edward's mother was Elizabeth who had been born in Oldbury. Also there were Edward's older brothers, William and Ernest, and his older sister Adelaide.

Edward joined the Glamorgan Constabulary on 20th August 1910 and police records show

that he had previously been employed, like his father, as a coal miner.

At the time of the Census of 1911 Edward was lodging with another Glamorgan policeman, Charles Harrison, at 44 High Street, Barry.

Shortly before the start of the First World War Edward was stationed as a constable in Penarth and at this time he became qualified in first aid. The *Barry Dock News* of 10th July 1914 carried a report regarding the presentation, at Barry Police Court, of certificates to him and a number of other policemen who had been successful in “ambulance examinations”. The Chairman of the court, Dr. Howell Rees, had this to say to them:

“I am very pleased to have the opportunity of presenting the certificates..... I have no doubt you will have many opportunities on your rounds of rendering first-aid, more especially on account of the increasing danger of the traffic on our streets and roads caused by excessive speeds. We have very sad examples of the danger in the London streets by traffic, 400 being killed on average, and 10,000 injured in the course of the year. It is a very

terrible toll. I do not know a more profitable way of spending an evening during the winter months than in organising classes amongst yourselves, and practising bandaging and rendering first-aid.”

These words may well have had greater significance than Dr. Rees may have imagined when he spoke them. Within a matter of weeks the First World War commenced and, no doubt, Edward, and many like him, would be called upon to bring their first aid skills to bear on the field of battle.

In September 1914, Edward left the Glamorgan Police and enlisted in the army at Penarth joining the South Staffordshire Regiment. He served with its 8th Battalion, eventually attaining the rank of sergeant.

The Battalion landed in France on 14th July 1915 and on 9th July 1916 it was ordered to attack Quadrangle Support Trench on the Somme in order to assist the attacks being made by the 38th (Welsh) Division on nearby Mametz Wood. At first the Battalion’s attack was successful and part of the trench was captured but German counter attacks later forced the Battalion to fall back. It was during

the fighting on 10th July that Edward was killed in action.

The *Western Mail* of 31st July 1916 reported:

“ Killed: Sergeant Beresford, South Staffordshire Light Infantry, who prior to the war was a police constable stationed at Penarth. According to a letter received at Cardiff the gallant non-com died whilst leading his men forward in a night attack, which was ultimately successful. The letter was from an officer of his battalion, who gives him a splendid name for valuable assistance rendered both in and out of the trenches. Deceased was a single man, and had been in the county constabulary for four years. He volunteered for military service on September 7, 1914.”

Another contemporary newspaper report states that he was the son of Edward Beresford of Pentre, Rhondda and that he had three brothers also serving in the army.

Edward has no known grave and is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial and the Glamorgan Police and Penarth War Memorials.

10TH JULY

PC 766 WILLIAM HENRY LOUD

GLAMORGAN CONSTABULARY
SERGEANT 233 I I
10TH BATTALION
WELSH REGIMENT



William was born in Worle, near Weston-super-Mare, Somerset, in 1894 but subsequently moved with his family to live in South Wales.

At the census of 1901 they were living at 40 Tallis Street in Cwmparc in the Rhondda. His father was Robert who had also been born in Worle, as had his mother Helen (in the subsequent census of 1911 described as “Ellen”). Robert was employed in coal mining. Other members of the family in the household at this time were William’s older sister, Helen, and his younger sisters Sarah and Annie.

By the census of 1911 the family had moved a few houses along Tallis Street to number 28. By that time Robert was still

employed in coalmining, now as a “sinker”, that is to say he would assist in sinking new shafts in order to extract coal. By this time sister Helen (also described as “Ellen”) had become married with the surname Trott. William was now 16 years of age and also employed in coal mining as a collier/hewer. Also in the household were four further children who had been born since 1901 namely, Alice, Florance, Joseph and Albert together with Robert’s brother, Charles, who was also employed as a sinker.

In 1914 William left coal mining and joined the Glamorgan Constabulary. He was serving in Maesteg at the outbreak of war, after which he enlisted in the army at Bridgend joining the 10th (1st Rhondda) Battalion of the Welsh Regiment.

He went with them to France in December 1915 as part of the 38th (Welsh) Division and took part in his Battalion’s attack on Mametz Wood on 10th July 1916 when he was killed in action. He has no known grave and is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial and the Glamorgan Police War Memorial.

12TH JULY

PC 363 RICHARD HAMER

GLAMORGAN CONSTABULARY
LANCE CORPORAL 1672
1ST BATTALION
WELSH GUARDS

Richard was the son of Hugh Morgan Price Hamer and Margaret Hamer and was born on 4th April 1892 at Llanddew near Brecon. His father was originally from Builth Wells and his mother was from Aberdare.

At the time of the census of 1901 the family was living at 5 Founders Row, Aberdare. Also in the household in addition to Richard and his parents were his older brother “Calip” (as will be seen later this should be “Caleb”) and younger brother, Ernest.

By 1911 when that year’s census was taken, the family had moved to 2 Tydraw Place, Abernant, Aberdare. Richard, then 19, and Ernest, 11, were living there with their parents. Richard’s father was described as a colliery worker and Richard was also employed in the collieries as a coal miner/hewer.

Richard joined the Glamorgan

Constabulary on 5th January 1914 and served at Skewen, near Neath and also at Aberavon. Two newspaper reports refer to his duties as a police officer. On 9th October 1914 the *Cambria Daily Leader* referred to the case of a young man brought before the local magistrates charged with stealing a coat and a vest valued at 3s 6d from outside a pawnshop in Cwmavon Road, Aberavon. It was stated that:

“P.C. Hamer, a young constable, saw defendant in a suspicious attitude outside the shop, and watched him take the coat and vest and put the coat on in place of his own, then walk away. Witness arrested him.

Defendant was fined 20 shillings and costs, and the Bench complimented the young constable upon his smartness.”

Richard again featured in the *Cambria Daily Leader* on 13th November 1914 when, in another case at Aberavon Police Court, two young men were:

“.....charged with disturbing a place of worship, Wern Chapel, by making a row outside during service.

Both lads denied the charge, and said..... they were only waiting to go to chapel themselves at another place of worship.

P.C. Hamer said that on Sunday night he saw the defendants outside Wern Chapel. They were jumping over the rail, shouting and causing a disturbance. When sent away they returned a second time.

Defendants were fined 10s each inclusive.

The Mayor: there are a lot of complaints of these disturbances, and they have become a real nuisance. I hope this will be an example to others, as any other cases will be severely dealt with.”

Richard resigned from the police force on 11th June 1915 in order to enlist in the army. He joined 1st Battalion, Welsh Guards and arrived in France on 4th November 1915. He was, in due course, promoted to Lance Corporal in the Prince of Wales Company of the Battalion.

On 1st July 1916 the Battalion was in action at Mortalje as described in the entries relating to PC's Lock and Williams. From a

subsequent newspaper report it appears that Richard suffered serious wounds on that date. He died on 12th July, aged 24, at the 2nd Canadian General Hospital at Outreau, and is buried at the Boulogne Eastern Cemetery.

Richard's grave is one of a total of 5577 Commonwealth burials of the First World War in the cemetery. Like the others the headstone to Richard's grave lies flat due to the sandy nature of the soil. It bears the below inscription.

On 11th November 1916, the *Aberdare Leader* carried a report of the unveiling of a Roll of Honour in the town's St. Elvan's Church to those who had lost their lives up to that point in the war. Richard was one of those included on it. The report stated:

"At the close of the service a "Roll of Honour" of the Churchmen of the Parish who have died in active service was unveiled by Mr. T. Lloyd, Churchwarden. The dedication

*"I have fought the good fight,
I have finished my course, I have kept the faith"*



Boulogne Eastern Cemetery

Jack Hamer



prayer was offered by the Vicar. The “Last Post” was sounded by Bugler Ivor Irons, 5th Welsh Regiment. Seats had been reserved for the relatives of the fallen. The offertories throughout the day were given to the “Kitchener National Memorial for Disabled Soldiers.” There were over a thousand present at the evening service.”

The loss of Richard was, however, not the only one to befall the family. He had an older brother whose full names appear to have been Caleb John Thomas Hamer. The *Aberdare Leader* of 12th June 1915 reported as follows:

“Jack Hamer, who has been killed in action, was the son of Hugh and Margaret Hamer, 2 Tydraw, Abernant, and was a brother to P.C. Hamer, Port Talbot. He met his death in the Dardanelles on the 28th of May. He had served with the colours five years, and was present at the capture of Tsingtau in China. The parents are very thankful to all for the great sympathy shown to them in their troubles.”

It appears that official records refer to Jack with the first names “Caleb John” and with “Thomas”

as his surname. He served as a regular soldier with the 2nd Battalion of the South Wales Borderers. In August 1914 they supported Japanese forces in capturing the German port of Tsingtao. Subsequently the Battalion returned to Britain before being sent to Gallipoli in April 1915. It was during the fighting there that Jack was killed in action in May 1915. Again, there are discrepancies in the documents as to the date of death with some referring to it as 28th May. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission, however, records it as 8th May. In any event, Jack has no known grave and is commemorated on the Helles memorial at Gallipoli.

The *Aberdare Leader* of 27th May 1916 carried the following notice:

IN MEMORIAM

HAMER-In affectionate remembrance of Jack Hamer, age 26 years, son of Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Hamer, No, 2 Tydraw, Aberdare, Private in 2nd South Wales Borderers. Killed in the

Dardanelles May 28th, 1915.

*No mother's care did him
attend,
Nor over him did a father bend,
No sister by to shed a tear,
No brother by his words to hear;
Sick, dying in a foreign land,
No father by to take a hand,
No mother near to close his eyes,
Far from his native land he lies."*

On 13th July 1918 the
Aberdare Leader again carried a
poignant family notice:

*"HAMER-In proud and loving
memory of Pte. C. J. Thomas
Hamer, killed in action in the
Dardanelles, May 28, 1915, and
also Corporal R. Hamer, Welsh
Guards, died of wounds in
France, July 12th 1916; dearly
loved sons of Mr and Mrs Hugh
Hamer, 4 Abernant Road (late of
Tydraw Place), Abernant.
Far away from their home, and
their loved ones,
Laid to rest in far-away lands;
No more shall our eyes there
behold them,
No more shall we clasp their
dear hands,
But in my lonely hours of sorrow,
They stand by my side,
And whisper 'Dear Mother,*

Death cannot divide."

*-Too dearly loved to be ever
forgotten by their sorrowing
mother and father, and only
brother, Ernest. For God, King
and Country."*

Richard is also remembered
on the Glamorgan Police War
Memorial.

18TH JULY

**PC 138 ERNEST
ROBERT HELSON**
SWANSEA BOROUGH POLICE
SERGEANT 283
1ST BATTALION
WELSH GUARDS



Ernest was a
Devonshire
man by origin.
He was born
on 19th
October 1887
at Bishop's
Tawton, near
Barnstaple. His father, Robert, was
a farm labourer and his mother
was Eliza. At the time of the
census of 1911 Ernest's parents
and his younger sister, Minnie, and
younger brother, William, were
living at 7 Warren Cottage,
Saunton, Braunton, near
Barnstaple.

At some stage before the First World War Ernest moved to South Wales and became a policeman in the Swansea Borough Force. At the time of the census of 1911, he was based at Uplands Police Station where he lived as a lodger. Also there were Sergeant David Francis Price and his wife, daughter and two sons together with PC's William John Beynon and Frank Edwin Lemon who were also lodgers.

The *Cambria Daily Leader* of 12th May 1914 refers to Ernest in a report dealing with the appearance of five boys, aged from 11 to 15, before the Swansea Juvenile Court for playing football in Coedsaeson-crescent:

"P.C. Helson said the defendants were playing football at nine o'clock at night, to the danger and annoyance of the public.

According to the statement of one of the parents, the boys did not play full time, as they were only kicking the ball about for eight minutes.

Chairman (Mr. J.W. Jones): They say a policeman is never there when he is wanted. This policeman appeared just at the right time, you see-Each defendant was fined 1 shilling."

After Britain declared war on Germany on 4th August 1914 there was a call up of reservists but also many men came forward to volunteer for the armed forces, policemen among them. The Swansea Borough Police Watch Committee, at a special meeting, considered the position of 13 policemen from the Force who wished to join up. One of those was Ernest.

The issue which had arisen which caused the Committee concern was that, whilst police officers who were called up as reservists were entitled to allowances, re-instatement at the end of their service and payment of gratuities in the event of injury, these terms did not apply to volunteers.

The Committee Chairman, was, however, in no doubt about the matter as reported by the *Cambria Daily Leader* for 3rd September 1914:

"...he thought that they ought to take their courage in their hands and treat the men generously. They would get the support of the Corporation and the town."

It was, therefore, unanimously agreed that the officers from the Borough Force who had

volunteered should, in all respects, be treated as if they were reservists.

The *Cambria Daily Leader* went on to state:

“The Chairman expressed to the men the high opinion that the Watch Committee had of them in being anxious to fight for their country. He was sure by the look of them they would give a very good account of themselves, and the committee only hoped that if they accepted the position they would return with honours. The committee was proud of them. (Applause).”

The Mayor said the Watch Committee and the council generally appreciated very much the men’s sense of duty in coming forward as volunteers in the hour of their country’s need, and he was quite sure they were a body of men who would give a good account of themselves. He hoped they would be successful, and that the committee would see them back again after the war was over, and they had settled matters to their satisfaction.

P.C. Griffiths thanked the Watch Committee on behalf of the men for enabling them to do their

duty for their country. (Applause).”

Amongst the officers referred to at the meeting was P.C. 26 Aubrey Alfred Smale who was also to serve with 1st Battalion, Welsh Guards. He was to die of wounds on 10th September 1916 (see below).

After enlisting Ernest joined the Grenadier Guards as Private 19277. He undertook initial training at the Guards Depot at Caterham in Surrey from where he sent a postcard dated 20th September 1914 to Police Sergeant Rees at Uplands Police Station, Swansea. The photograph on it shows the entrance to the Depot and on it Ernest has written

“This is the place where we are staying and where we do sentry go. Looks fine doesn’t it.”

On the reverse of the card Ernest wrote:

“Dear Sergt. Just a Pc as promised to let you know that all the boys up here are in the best of health and getting on allright. We are in a place called Caterham about 20 miles from London, where we will have to remain for about 2 months hard

training before we will have a chance of going to the front. When we get through our training here we shall be fit for anything. We shall all be drill instructors by the time we come back. We boys have been very lucky since we have been here. We are all in the same squad and living in the same room together. We have seen Green and Bynon in London. Saw Trevor Griffiths last night. They are all looking up fine. We have met Bill Francis brother in law from Swansea. Remember me to the boys home there."

It appears that Ernest did not, in fact, go to the front with the

Grenadier Guards but, like many other Grenadiers, he transferred to the Welsh Guards on its formation in February 1915. He went with the Regiment's 1st Battalion to France on 17th August 1915. Indeed, the History of the Regiment in the First World War lists Ernest, by then Lance Sergeant 283, as one of the NCO's of Number 4 Company, who, along with the remainder of the Battalion sailed from Southampton on the *SS Petersburg* and landed at Le Havre on 18th August.

Ernest would have taken part in all the Battalion's actions after that including their part in the



Ernest's postcard to Sergeant Rees

fierce fighting during the Battle of Loos between September and October 1915. He was promoted to Sergeant on 26th October.

In July 1916 the Battalion was occupying lines near the canal bank at Ypres in Belgium. It was here, on the 18th, that Ernest died of wounds as a result of enemy shelling.

The Battalion's War Diary indicates that on 16th July it had suffered casualties from being shelled by British artillery guns. However, the following day it was German shelling which caused losses:

"Today we did considerable gunning again and we got shells back (Bosch this time)..... Casualties 1 killed. 6 wounded (2 at duty). Sergt Helson included in wounded but died next day. A loss."

On 22nd July the *Cambria Daily Leader* reported that:

"Ex-Police Sergeant Price and Mrs. Price of Rhyddings-terrace, Brynmill, received news on Friday stating that Sergt. E.R. Helson of the Welsh Guards, had died from shrapnel wounds in France. Before he joined the Army, Sergt. Helson was a

constable in the Swansea Police Force, and was for some time stationed at the Uplands, where he was very popular. He had been at the front for many months and had participated in some hot fighting, some of which he described in a very interesting letter which Mr. and Mrs. Price received from him a week or so ago."

The *North Devon Journal* for 21st September carried the following report:

"SAUNTON SOLDIER DIES FROM WOUNDS

During the past week Mr. and Mrs. Robert Helson of 6 Warren Cottage, Saunton have received the sad news that their second son, Sergeant Ernest R. Helson (Welsh Guards), died on July 17th from wounds received in action in France. In a touching letter the Chaplain who buried him states that Sergeant Helson succumbed to wounds in the abdomen and chest. He was buried in a military cemetery, and a cross marks the grave. The letter concludes-'May Jesus Christ, who died for you, comfort you in your sorrow.' Sergeant Helson who was 28 years of age, was for five years a member of

Swansea Police Force, enlisting in the army on the outbreak of War. In a letter to his father, the Chief Constable of Swansea says:-'I hasten to express my deepest sympathy in your bereavement. Your son was a most promising officer, one of the smartest and most intelligent of the many recruits serving in my Constabulary in recent years, and up to the time of the War breaking out I had looked upon him as one likely to earn early advancement in the Police services. I consider his early death a distinct loss to my Constabulary. I trust that the knowledge that your son died whilst serving King and Country

will soften the sad blow for you.' In the Braunton district much sympathy is expressed for Mr. and Mrs. Helson in their bereavement."

Ernest is buried at Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery near Ypres which was the site of many casualty clearing stations during the war. With 9901 Commonwealth burials it is the second largest Commonwealth cemetery in Belgium.

Ernest is also remembered on the Memorial Plaque in Swansea Central Police Station.

Sadly, Ernest's older brother, Jack, also died during the war. He was killed in action on 21st March



Lijssenthoek Cemetery

1918 whilst serving as a Lance Bombardier with either the Royal Field Artillery or the Royal Horse Artillery (the records vary). He left a widow, Elizabeth, and seven children who lived in Pontrhydyfen near Port Talbot. The *Cambria Daily Leader* for 14th May 1918 reported that Jack:

“...was killed in action at his gun in France. In a sympathetic letter to his widow, who is left with seven children, Capt. George Aines states that deceased was a most excellent soldier, and his death was keenly felt by the whole battery.”

10TH SEPTEMBER

PC 576 EDWARD JOHN EDWARDS GLAMORGAN CONSTABULARY PRIVATE 801 1ST BATTALION WELSH GUARDS

Edward was born on 27th December 1893 in Aberdare. He was the son of David Edwards who was from Cardiganshire and was a coal miner and Margaret Esther Edwards from Pembrokeshire. He was educated at the St Fagan's National School in Trecynon, Aberdare. At the census of 1911 Edward was living with his mother at 6 Clive Place,

Trecynon, his father having by then died. Also in the household were Edward's two brothers and three sisters along with a nephew of Edward's aged five. Two of Edward's sisters and one of his brothers were elementary school teachers. Edward himself was employed as coalminer/hewer.

Edward joined the Glamorgan Constabulary on 12th December 1914 and served at Sketty in Swansea. He was in the Force for only a short time, however, since he resigned on 12th March 1915 to enlist in the army in Swansea. He joined the Welsh Guards which was formed in February 1915 and went with the 1st Battalion to France on 17th August 1915 landing at Le Havre the following day. He served with the Battalion in its time on the Western Front after that including the Battle of Loos.

Edward was killed in action on 10th September 1916 during the Battalion's action at Ginchy, as part of the Battle of the Somme. He was 22 years of age when he died.

He has no known grave and is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial and on the Glamorgan Police War Memorial.

10TH SEPTEMBER

**PC 117 HENRY
MORGAN JONES**

**GLAMORGAN CONSTABULARY
PRIVATE 1380 1ST BATTALION
WELSH GUARDS**

Henry was from Cardiganshire having been born at Aberystwyth on 10th September 1890.

He joined the Glamorgan Constabulary on 18th November 1911, police records indicating that he had previously worked as a farm servant. By the outbreak of war in August 1914 he was a constable in Bridgend.

It was there that he enlisted in the army and joined 1st Battalion, Welsh Guards on 10th May 1915. He went with the Battalion to France, landing at Le Havre on 18th August 1915.

Henry was killed in action at Ginchy on the Somme on 10th September 1916, his twenty sixth birthday.

He is buried at London Cemetery and Extension at Longueval on the Somme. It lies immediately next to High Wood which was fought over fiercely during the Battle of the Somme.



London Cemetery and Extension, Longueval

There are 3,873 burials from the First World War in the cemetery, 3,114 of which are unidentified.

Records held by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission indicate that Henry's remains were initially amongst those that could not be identified and it was only subsequently that the necessary procedures were satisfied enabling his headstone to be inscribed appropriately. The records indicate that he was survived by his mother, Mrs. Mary Hughes of Tancoed, Llanfarian, Aberystwyth.

Henry is also remembered on the Glamorgan Police War Memorial and the War Memorial at Llanfarian.

10TH SEPTEMBER

PC 684

WILLIAM JONES

GLAMORGAN CONSTABULARY

PRIVATE 1189 1ST BATTALION

WELSH GUARDS

William Jones was born in Llangeler near Newcastle Emlyn in Carmarthenshire in 1891. The family moved to live at Pencastell Farm in Cymmer, near Maesteg, following the re-marriage of his

widowed mother. He worked on the farm until he joined the Glamorgan Constabulary in 1914 and at the outbreak of war he was stationed at Maesteg as Constable 684.

He joined the Welsh Guards as Private 1189 on 17th April 1915 at Bridgend and went with them to France in August 1915. He served with the Battalion during subsequent actions on the Western Front in France and Belgium.

In 1916 William was awarded the Military Medal for bravery. The History of the Welsh Guards in the First World War states that on 9th July 1916, William along with Private 758 Anthony Augustus West (formerly of the Glamorgan Constabulary stationed at Port Talbot) were presented with their Military Medal ribbons by Major General Feilding, General Officer Commanding the Guards Division. They were also members of a party, which included Lance Corporal 1245 Trott (PC 324 Glamorgan), which represented the Division at a parade in Paris on 14th July.

The *Glamorgan Gazette* for 4th August 1916 reproduced a

letter from a police colleague of William's, Private W.J. Thomas, Welsh Guards:

"Our boys-the Welsh Guards-went over the top and were very successful. They gained the lines of trenches, and are still holding them. Several were killed and wounded. P. C. William Jones, of Maesteg, went with an officer into the German trenches and brought back two prisoners. The officer took his name and recommended him, and he now wears the Military Medal ribbon."

On the other hand, the *Police Review* for 22nd September 1916 reported that he had received it in the following circumstances:

"...for carrying Lance Corporal E. J. Taylor, Welsh Guards, who was mortally wounded, across a fire-swept zone into a place of safety. They were comrades in the Police Force previous to joining the Army."

The details of Lance Corporal Taylor have appeared earlier in this booklet. He died on 8th May 1916 whereas it is likely that Private Thomas in his letter is referring to the action at

Mortaldje on 1st July. It is also noteworthy that General Feilding in presenting the medal ribbons congratulated the Battalion on "their good work done at Mortaldje."

Whether William won his Military Medal as described by the *Police Review* or at Mortaldje, of one thing there is no doubt and that was his bravery.

Sadly, on 10th September 1916, aged 25, William died of wounds presumably sustained during the action at Ginchy on the Somme. He was survived by his mother, Mrs. Hannah Anthony.

William was obviously highly thought of both as a police officer and a soldier. In another report after he had received the Military Medal the *Glamorgan Gazette* on 18th August 1916 gave this description of William as a policeman:

"He was a smart, conscientious officer, an out-and-out Welshman, and very popular with his colleagues in the force."

The History of the Welsh Guards in the First World War, in one of its concluding chapters, reflects upon the bravery of many

members of the Regiment during the war. It then goes on to say this about William:

“While writing of gallantry we have the deeds of some men at Mortaldje always in our mind. It was easy on this occasion to describe, we will say, 1189 Pte. W. Jones advancing alone with only the flickering, shadow-raising flare from Verey lights dispersing the dark of a moonless night. We can see him stumbling along the strange trench, we can see the walls of earth on either side of him, his bayonet flashing, the sharp turn in the trench and the jumping light throwing a shadow like a black wall from the angle of the turn. We appreciate the courage which led him through the shadow and round the turn in the trench. We realise that he knew he might meet the enemy at any moment, and was deliberately seeking him—he was a determined man looking for his enemy.”

William has no known grave and is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing of the Somme and on the Glamorgan Police War Memorial.

10TH SEPTEMBER

**PC 57
REGINALD LOVIS
MERTHYR BOROUGH POLICE
PRIVATE 2013 1ST BATTALION
WELSH GUARDS**



Reginald was born at Tavistock in Devon on 4th January 1889, the son of John Lovis, who was from Devon, and his wife, Sarah, who originated from Somerset. Reginald had an older brother, also called John.

Reginald was baptised in the Parish of All Saints, Plymouth, on 15th February 1889.

By 1891 the family had moved to live at Ball Court Lane in Merthyr. They were still living there at the time of the census of 1901. Reginald’s father was then employed as a brickyard labourer whilst John was an errand boy for a newspaper office.

By the time of the census of 1911, Reginald had joined the Merthyr Borough Police and was living as the lodger of Sergeant William Lewis, and his wife, Mary, at 43 Taldwyn Terrace, Troedryhiw. As we have seen

earlier, also lodging in the same house was Thomas Voyle Morgan, PC 68 of the Merthyr Police.

Reginald married Nellie Davies at Merthyr in 1911. Nellie was from Merthyr and she and Reginald had a son, Norman, who was born in 1912. Sadly, Nellie died in 1914 aged 23.

Prior to joining the army, Reginald was stationed at Gellifaelog, Dowlais and there are several reports in the press of cases involving him as a police officer before the local magistrates. The following are some of them:

- Three men were charged with assaulting Reginald in the execution of his duty. He had been to a local lodging house to speak to the manager and when he came out he was set upon by the three men. In giving evidence Reginald said that they had pushed him down and kicked him *“like a football.”* He had had to use his truncheon on one of the men. He suffered bruising in several places and was fortunate that the manager of the lodging house came to his aid when he saw Reginald being beaten. After hearing evidence the magistrates found the men guilty and fined them. (*Merthyr Pioneer* 3rd January 1914)
- A woman was charged with the malicious wounding of another woman with a poker causing wounds to her nose and above her eye. Reginald gave evidence of the assault. The charge was reduced to common assault and the defendant was sent to prison for two months (*Western Mail* 29th April 1914)
- A man was charged with stealing a duck. The owner said that he had ten ducks which he had locked up safely on the Saturday night but the following morning one of them was missing. The manager of a local lodging house gave evidence that the defendant *“brought the duck and put it on the fire after having cooked some sausages. He (the manager) took it off the fire and told him that “that kind of thing would not do.”* Later Reginald arrested the defendant whose response was that he had bought the duck. He was

found guilty and sent to prison for one month. (*Merthyr Pioneer* 5th September 1914).

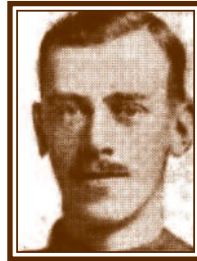
- Reginald was assaulted on another occasion. In this case he had arrested a man for being drunk and disorderly in Dowlais and as he attempted to take him to the police station the man struck him two violent blows to the chest and chin. Reginald had assistance from a PC Pugh to take the man into custody. He was fined for being drunk and disorderly and for the assault on Reginald and was ordered to pay costs. (*Merthyr Pioneer* 30th January 1915)

Reginald left the Merthyr Police and on 2nd October 1915 enlisted in the army at Merthyr, joining 1st Battalion, Welsh Guards. He left for France on 9th July 1916 and served with the Battalion until he was killed in action at Ginchy on the Somme on 10th September 1916. He was survived by Norman, then aged four.

Reginald has no known grave and is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial and on the Merthyr Police Memorial Panel.

10TH SEPTEMBER

PC 77 ARTHUR RICHMOND PERKINS GLAMORGAN CONSTABULARY PRIVATE 1246 1ST BATTALION WELSH GUARDS



Arthur was born at Abercanaid, Merthyr Tydfil, on 15th September 1889. He was the son of

John Perkins and Frances Kezia Perkins (nee Rodman). His father was a police officer in the Glamorgan Constabulary who at one time was stationed at St. Nicholas in the Vale of Glamorgan whilst his mother was a nurse and the daughter of a police officer who also served in the Glamorgan Force, Inspector Charles Rodman of Dowlais.

At the time of the census of 1911 Arthur's mother and his sisters, Frances Lilly, who was older than him and who was an assistant nurse, and Florence Maybell who was younger than Arthur, were living at Gwern y Steeple, Peterston-super-Ely, near Cardiff, Arthur's father having by then died.

Arthur was educated at Peterston School and Cardiff Intermediate School (later re-named Cardiff High School). As a young man he took up employment on the railways, joining the Great Western Railway Company in 1906. He remained with them until 1908 when he resigned. On 1st May 1909 he followed in the footsteps of his father and grandfather and became a police officer, joining the Glamorgan Constabulary. At the time of the census of 1911 he was stationed at Port Talbot and also served at Ton Pentre and Maesteg.

Arthur resigned from the Glamorgan Constabulary on 11th December 1914 and later became a clerk in the Bradford City Police. It was in Bradford that he enlisted in the army on 24th April 1915 and became Private 1246 in the 1st Battalion of the Welsh Guards, with whom he went to France on 17th August 1915.

He served with the Battalion in its actions on the

Western Front which included the Battle of Loos between September and October 1915 when it suffered severe casualties.

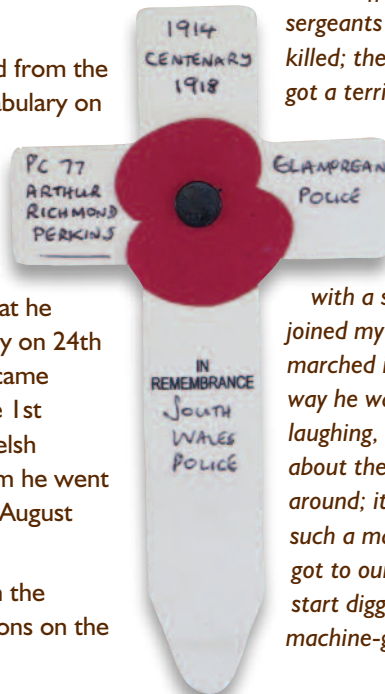
Arthur was a signaller in the Prince of Wales' Company of the Battalion and was killed in action on 10th September 1916 during heavy fighting at Ginchy on the Somme when the Battalion again sustained heavy casualties.

One of Arthur's comrades wrote:

"The last time we were in action we caught it pretty hot, and lost all our officers, and five sergeants in my company were killed; the rest of the company got a terrible knocking about.

Perkins was with me when he met his death; he was a brave man and one who faced danger

with a smile on his face. He joined my platoon when we marched into action, and on the way he was smoking and laughing, and didn't care a hang about the shells that were flying around; it was a treat to have such a man with me. When we got to our position we had to start digging a trench under machine-gun fire, and it was



while I was getting my platoon extended that Perkins got killed, five minutes after we took the line."

Arthur's sergeant stated:

"He has been in my section throughout the war and was most respected by all who knew him. We feel that we have lost a good comrade and a thoroughly good signaller, and he will always be remembered by us as a man who could be relied upon to do his bit."

Arthur was 26 when he was killed. He has no known grave and is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission records him as the *"only son of Frances Perkins of Peterston-super-Ely, Cardiff....and the late Serjt Perkins."*

Arthur is not commemorated on the Glamorgan Police War Memorial presumably because he had left the Force to join the Bradford City Police. It is, nevertheless, considered appropriate that his sacrifice should be remembered and included in this booklet.

10TH SEPTEMBER

PC 26 AUBREY ALFRED SMALE

SWANSEA BOROUGH POLICE
SERGEANT 242
1ST BATTALION
WELSH GUARDS



Aubrey was from Swansea having been born at Cockett in 1888. He was the son of James Smale

who originally came from Devon. His mother was called Emily and she was from Somerset.

Aubrey was baptised at the Parish Church in Sketty, Swansea, on 4th March 1888.

In 1891 the family lived at the The Bryn in Sketty. As well as James, Emily and Aubrey, also at home were eight other children all of whom were older than Aubrey: Richard, Emily, William, Mary, Arthur, Ada, Harold and Beatrice. Aubrey's father's occupation was given as "Foreman in Iron Stores."

By 1901 the family had moved to Castle Villa, off Gower Road in

Sketty. At the time of the census of 1911, Aubrey's mother was a widow and along with Aubrey and two of his sisters they lived at 7 De La Beche Road in Sketty. Aubrey's mother was then 71 years of age and her occupation was described as "certificated midwife" whilst Aubrey was employed as a gardener.

Between 1911 and the outbreak of war Aubrey joined the Swansea Borough Police. The *Cambria Daily Leader* for 3rd August 1914, the day before Britain declared war on Germany, reported that Aubrey had been involved in an event of a more local nature:

SWANSEA MEN WITH THE GRENAДИER GUARDS.



The above group of Grenadier Guardsmen includes three members of the Swansea Police Force, in addition to a fourth Swansea man. They may be found as follows:—
 Back Row: First from left, David Dupree.
 Second Row: First from left, P.C. Charles Gubb; second from left, P.C. Ernest Elston.
 Bottom Row (seated): Last on right, P.C. Aubrey Smale.

“At 3.0 a.m. on Sunday morning, P.C. Smale was called to No. 6, Picton Place, the residence of Miss Musgrave, which was in flames. Fortunately, the house was unoccupied, Miss Musgrave and all the household being away. There was a good supply of water, and with a hose the fire was got under by about 4 a.m.”

Aubrey enlisted in the Grenadier Guards at Swansea on 3rd September 1914 and on 4th December the *Cambria Daily Leader* carried a photograph of a group of Grenadier Guardsmen which included Aubrey and two other Swansea policemen, PC Charles Gubb and PC Ernest Elston (presumably Helson). Also in the photograph was another man from Swamsea, David Du Pree. All four transferred to the Welsh Guards when it was formed in February 1915 but only PC Gubb survived the war and he was wounded.

Aubrey had been Private 19279 in the Grenadier Guards and his qualities were recognised by promotion, becoming a sergeant in the Welsh Guards. He served with the 1st Battalion in its

actions on the Somme which is where he died of wounds on 10th September 1916 at Ginchy. The *Cambria Daily Leader* for 19th September reported:

“Information has come to hand that Sergt. Aubrey Smale, has been killed in action in France. The son of Mrs. Smale, widow, of Kimberley Road, Sketty, and brother of Mr. Richard Smale, of Messrs. Jones and Smale, iron merchants, Quay Parade, Swansea. He was a former member of the Swansea Constabulary. Upon the formation of a Welsh regiment, he was transferred, and though the military authorities wished to retain his services he insisted on taking the place of a married comrade, who had a wife and four children, and was permitted to substitute. The news was conveyed to Sergt. Smale’s widowed mother by the Rev. H. J. Stewart, Vicar of Sketty, who on Sunday delivered an appealing address to his congregation from the text, “Greater Love hath no man.”

The Swansea Borough Police Watch Committee at its meeting on 16th October 1916 received

notification of Aubrey's death, the Committee noting that he was single and "*a most efficient police officer.*" The Committee also resolved to refund to Aubrey's mother the contribution paid into the superannuation fund of £7 6s 10d.

A memorial service was held at the Parish Church of St. Paul's in Sketty, on Sunday, 29th October when Aubrey's name was read out along with the names of fifteen other men who had died on active service. There was a large congregation present to hear the Vicar's sermon and the reading of a lesson and the playing of appropriate music. The *Cambria Daily Leader* reported that at the conclusion of the service:

"Two buglers sounded the "Last Post" which was followed by two minutes silent meditation, followed by the rendering of the National Anthem.

After the service the bells rang a muffled peal."

The following month a further impressive act of remembrance took place in Sketty. During the First World War the custom developed in many towns and villages throughout Britain of creating street or roadside shrines

to pay tribute to those from the relevant locality who were serving in the armed forces and especially those who had made the ultimate sacrifice. Such shrines became places for the family, friends and neighbours of the men to visit, to place flowers, to reflect and to mourn.

On 19th November 1916, there was a procession through Sketty led by the Vicar which visited each of the four shrines which had been erected at Dillwyn Road, Tycoch Road, Kimberley Road and Sketty Avenue. (A fifth shrine was to be erected outside St. Paul's Church at a later date).

The shrines consisted of a simple cross seven feet high, with a shelf for floral tributes and lists of the names of the men who had fallen and those who were serving or had served their country.

Despite poor weather it was said that there were more than 500 people present at the dedications of the shrines with many more lining the route of the procession.

373 names were recorded on the shrines (including a Miss Ethel Hodgens who was said to be the only woman from Sketty on active service in France). Nineteen of

those listed had died. Aubrey's name was one of those on the Kimberley Road shrine.

The *South Wales Weekly Post* reported that during the proceedings:

"..... the Vicar stated they had come together as a parish to dedicate those crosses or shrines for the use of Sketty as a whole. The cross was the emblem of their faith, and also indicated that sacrifice had been made for someone. They had placed the names of the men in each district on the cross, so as to have before their minds always the fact that a large number of men had gone forth from the parish of Sketty to sacrifice all they loved best, even their lives, for the sake of the men, women and children living there. The shrines had been placed in different sections of the parish in order that they might never forget them, and were dedicated to the use of the parish until the war ended..."

Aubrey has no known grave and is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial and the Swansea Police Memorial Plaque.

14TH SEPTEMBER

PC 634 FREDERICK
CHARLES LORD

GLAMORGAN CONSTABULARY
LANCE CORPORAL 20673
4TH BATTALION
GRENADEER GUARDS



Frederick was born in the Norfolk village of Brooke, near Norwich on 10th July 1891. His father, Henry John Lord, was a policeman in the Norfolk Constabulary and his mother was Maria. Henry was from Hickling in Norfolk whilst Maria had been born in Fressingfield in Suffolk.

Frederick was baptised at Brooke on 10th September 1893.

In 1901, when that year's census was taken, the family lived in the police station in the Norfolk seaside town of Hunstanton where Henry was serving as a sergeant. In addition to Frederick and his parents, also in the household were Frederick's older brothers, Ebenezer and Ernest, and his younger brother Alfred.

By the time of the census of 1911, the family had moved to the market town of Loddon, some 12 miles from Norwich, where they again lived in the police station. Henry had by then achieved promotion to the rank of superintendent. Also at home were Ernest who was described as an elementary teacher with Norfolk County Council, Alfred, employed as a tailor's apprentice, and Frederick who was a gardener.

Later in 1911, Frederick moved to South Wales and joined the Glamorgan Constabulary with whom he served until November 1914 when he left and enlisted in the army at Cardiff. Prior to doing so he had been stationed as a constable at Cowbridge.

Frederick joined the Grenadier Guards and spent nearly a year on home service until he went to France on 5th October 1915. By this time he was a Lance Corporal having been promoted in April 1915.

He served with the 4th Battalion of the regiment and it was whilst he was with them on the Somme that he died of wounds at the 5th Casualty Clearing Station on 14th

September 1916. He was 25 years of age and single.

Frederick is buried at the Communal Cemetery Extension at Corbie near Amiens in Northern France. There are 918 burials from the First World War in the Extension, the majority arising from the Battle of the Somme. Frederick is also remembered on the Glamorgan Police War Memorial and the Cowbridge War Memorial.



The cemetery at Corbie where Frederick is buried

15TH SEPTEMBER

PC 629 GEORGE ROBERT GUY

GLAMORGAN CONSTABULARY
PRIVATE 22592
2ND BATTALION
GRENADEIER GUARDS



George was born in Penarth in 1890. His father was also called George and his mother was Sarah Ann, both of whom

had been born in Cardiff.

At the time of the census of 1891 the family lived at Salop Place in Penarth. Along with George and his parents also in the household were George's older brothers David and William. George's father's occupation was described as "mariner."

By 1901 and that year's census the family had moved to 24 Glebe Place in Penarth by which time it had grown with the addition of George's sisters, Beatrice and Agnes, then eight and four years of age respectively. David was now in employment as a general haulier whilst father George was employed as a boatman.

1911's census recorded that

the family was then living at 24 Plassey Street in Penarth by which time George had obtained employment as an undertaker's assistant whilst William was a butcher's assistant and Beatrice was working as a domestic servant. Later that year George joined the Glamorgan Constabulary and was stationed at Tonypany before he left the Force and enlisted in the army at Cardiff on 30th January 1915.

He served with the 2nd Battalion, Grenadier Guards and joined the British Expeditionary Force in France on 6th November 1915. On 15th September 1916 during the Battle of the Somme, the Guards Division, which included 2nd Battalion, Grenadier Guards, advanced towards the town of Lesbouefs. Due to heavy resistance by German forces the attack faltered and the town was not captured until 25th September. It would appear that it was during the fighting on 15th September that George was killed in action.

George was 26 years of age when he died and was single. He has no known grave but is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, the Glamorgan Police War Memorial and the War Memorial at Penarth.

16TH SEPTEMBER

PC 270 JOHN FARLEY
GLAMORGAN CONSTABULARY
LANCE CORPORAL 719
1ST BATTALION
WELSH GUARDS



John, who was born on 1st January 1893, was an Irishman from Kinsale in County Cork. His father,

Cornelius, was a fisherman whilst his mother was Kate. Both were born in County Cork.

At the time of the census of 1901 the family, which included John's older sisters, Lizzie and Annie and his younger brothers, Bartholomew, Cornelius and Timothy, lived in Cork Street in Kinsale.

The census of 1911 records the family as still living in Cork Street and there was another son, William, then aged nine. John's father had, however, by then died. Lizzie and Annie were both employed as lace makers, whilst John was a general labourer.

John joined the Glamorgan Constabulary in the early days of the First World War, on 29th

August 1914. He was stationed at Penrhiwceiber.

The *Aberdare Leader* of 19th December 1914 reported that, in proceedings before the local magistrates, John had given evidence in cases of drunk and disorderly and of illegal Sunday trading.

John resigned from the police on 5th March 1915 in order that he could enlist in the army which he did at Aberdare. He joined 1st Battalion, Welsh Guards as Private 719 and was subsequently promoted to Lance Corporal.

He went with the Battalion to France in August 1915 and was serving with them during the Battle of the Somme when he was killed in action on 16th September 1916.

He was 23 years of age and was single.

He has no known grave and is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial and the Glamorgan Police War Memorial.

16TH SEPTEMBER

**PC HERBERT
JAMES FISHER**

CARDIFF CITY POLICE

LANCE CORPORAL 1343

1ST BATTALION

WELSH GUARDS



Herbert was from Cardiff where he was born in November 1890. He was the son of George Fisher

and his wife, Elizabeth. They came from Poole in Dorset and Bath respectively.

At the time of the census of 1891 the family lived in the Cathays area of Cardiff. Also there in addition to Herbert and his parents were Herbert's brothers, Henry, George and Reginald and his sisters Ada and Elizabeth all of whom were older than Herbert.

Herbert was baptised in St Andrew's Church in Cardiff in March 1892 when his father's occupation was recorded as coachman. Subsequently Herbert attended Marlborough Road Primary School in the city.

By 1901 and that year's census Herbert's father had died and the family lived at 1 Cyfarthfa Street in Roath, Cardiff.

In February 1911 Herbert joined the Cardiff City Police. The census of that year shows him as living at the police station at Janet Street in Splott. Also living there were Inspector William Price and his wife, who helped to look after the station, their daughter and, in addition to Herbert, PC's Rees Davies, William Keen, John Weeks and Frank Willis. The latter was to be killed in action on 15th November 1914.

Herbert enlisted in the army at Cardiff on 29th April 1915 and joined 1st Battalion, Welsh Guards and was subsequently promoted to Lance Corporal. He went with the Battalion to France in August 1915 and took part in the Regiment's actions during the Battle of Loos the following month a description of which is contained in a report in the *South Wales Echo*:

"Letters from the front describe how Lieut. E. G. Mawby, senior lieutenant of the Prince of Wales' Company, 1st Welsh Guards, fell, and also mentions

Lance Corporal Herbert James Fisher (Welsh Guards), who, for five years, was in the Cardiff City Police, stationed at Canton.

An officer writes under date September 30th: 'The Welsh Guards did splendidly. One artillery officer said he had never before seen a regiment cross open ground under such a hail of shells, as if they were on parade, and every German gun was turned on us. The Grenadiers, Scots Guards, and ourselves crossed the open ridge and down into the town, which was worst of all, as it was gassed and being blown inside out. When we got through the village below the hill we were ordered to do the attack at once. The Battalion did awfully well, but we lost five officers killed.

October 1st: The General came round today and complimented each company on what they had done. He said the chief artillery officers had spoken with admiration of the way we had come down the slope into Loos. Just when the General was getting anxious about having a complete regiment together to carry out the attack the Welsh

Guards were there awaiting orders.

October 2nd: General French came round this morning, and it is reported that he was very pleased with the whole advance.

Col. W. Murray Threipland (O.C. 1st Welsh Guards) writes that 'Lieut. Mawby and Lance Corporal H.J. Fisher went forward in advance of the platoon, and Lieut. Mawby caught his leg in a wire. There were two shots and Lieut. Mawby fell. After remaining with his officer ten minutes and making certain life had gone, the corporal crawled back to the line.'

In September 1916 the Battalion was in action during the Battle of the Somme and it appears that it was during its attack near Lesbœufs that Herbert was killed on the 16th. He was 25 years of age and single.

He has no known grave and is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial and the Cardiff Police War Memorial.

16TH SEPTEMBER

PC 526
AUGUSTUS HARRIS
GLAMORGAN CONSTABULARY
LANCE CORPORAL I 184
1ST BATTALION
WELSH GUARDS



Augustus was born at Blaina in Monmouthshire on 25th November 1893, the son of Thomas

Harris and his wife, Elizabeth.

Both his parents were from Monmouthshire, his father having been born in Machen and his mother in Blaina.

In 1911 the family was living in the village of Rudry near Caerphilly. Augustus and his father were both employed in the tinplate industry, Augustus as a tinplate catcher and his father as a tinplate roller. Also living at home were Augustus' older sister Beatrice who was employed as a dressmaker, and his younger sister and brother, May and Gwyn, both of whom were at school.

Augustus joined the Glamorgan Constabulary on 17th

August 1914 and served for only eight months before resigning on 9th April 1915 so that he could enlist in the army. Prior to doing so he had been stationed in Barry Dock.

In his short time as a policeman he featured in reports in the *Barry Dock News* in cases before the local magistrates.

In its edition on 16th October 1914 it described the case of a Territorial soldier who was charged with being drunk and disorderly and assaulting the police:

“On the previous Saturday night, said Inspector R.H. Thomas, he, together with P.C. Augustus Harris, saw the prisoner in Merthyr Street, Barry Docks. He was under the influence of drink, and was quarreling with a woman. The defendant refused to go away when requested, and had to be taken into custody. On the way to the police station he bit witness on the hand and leg, and kicked the constable. ‘He was like a madman,’ added Inspector Thomas, and was kicking and biting all the way.’

Defendant, who had been before

the Court on ten previous occasions, said he was under the influence of drink at the time, and could not remember anything about the offence”.

The magistrate, in passing sentence, addressed the soldier:

“ We are sorry to see you here. I should have thought the uniform you were wearing would have made you respect yourself. The assault was quite unprovoked. It is a great pity that the public give drink to you soldiers. You will go to prison for a month on each charge, the sentences to run concurrently.”

In a case headlined *“Inclined to be Russian”*, the paper reported on 26th March 1915:

“Carl Harleman, an Austrian, was charged with landing at Barry Docks from the steamship St. Elmo.

P.C. Augustus Harris spoke to arresting defendant outside the Shipping Office in Dock View Road that morning at 10.30. When charged, he made no reply.

Accused said he had been previously arrested in France, but in that country was allowed

to go because he was inclined to be a Russian.

Defendant was remanded in custody...”

Then in its edition for 2nd April 1915, shortly before Augustus left the police to join the army, it reported on a case of illegal street betting involving a man named Phillips:

“P.C. Frank Hall said he and P.C. Augustus Harris kept the defendant under observation in Thompson Street, Barry Docks, on the previous Wednesday, from 12.30 until 1.10 p.m., during which time he saw six men approach defendant, and hand slips of paper and what appeared to be money. Phillips entered a telephone box in a tobacconists’s shop, and it was there that he was arrested. The slips were found on the floor near him, and one in the telephone box. When searched at the police station, £3 18s, was found in Phillips’ possession.

P.C. Augustus Harris corroborated.

The defendant said he was at one time in the employ of a local bookmaker, but was now

working regularly as a plater's helper at the docks. He denied the charge, stating that the slips which were found in his possession were his own property, and contained the names of horses which he intended 'backing' for himself and friends.

Defendant had made two previous visits to the court on similar charges, and he was now fined £10 including costs, or one month's imprisonment."

For Augustus such matters were soon to be overtaken by the enormity of events in France. He enlisted on 10th April 1915, the day after he resigned from the police. He was posted to the 1st Battalion of the recently formed Welsh Guards and went initially to the Guards Depot at Caterham.

He then landed in France with his Battalion in August 1915 and served with it during its subsequent actions on the Western Front until December 1915 when he returned to Britain where he remained until July 1916 when he again went to France. The following month he was promoted to Lance Corporal.

It was during the Battle of the Somme that Augustus was killed in action on 16th September 1916. Initially he was posted as missing but it was then accepted that he had died. He was 22 years of age when he died.

He has no known grave and is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial and the Glamorgan Police War Memorial.

22ND SEPTEMBER

PC 292

ARTHUR PUGH

GLAMORGAN CONSTABULARY

PRIVATE 2528

1ST BATTALION

WELSH GUARDS



Arthur was from Brithdir, near Dolgellau, in North Wales.

He was born on 25th March 1894, the son of Hugh Pugh, who had also been born in Brithdir, and his wife, Ellen, who was originally from Llanarth in Cardiganshire.

In 1901 the family was living in Llwyn yr Helm, Brithdir. At home

at the time of that year's census, in addition to Arthur and his parents, were Arthur's sister Blodwen and brother Llewelyn, both of whom were older than Arthur, and his sister Morfudd, who was younger than him.

At the census of 1911 the family was still living at Llwyn yr Helm. However, it appears that by then Arthur's mother had died and his father had married Catherine who came from Llanymawddwy, Merionethshire. Arthur's father's occupation is given as farmer and stone mason whilst Arthur was employed as a farm labourer.

Arthur left North Wales and apparently worked for a time at Blaenclydach in the Rhondda. On 20th February 1915 he joined the Glamorgan Constabulary and was stationed at Mountain Ash before he left for the army. It seems from records that he enlisted at Mountain Ash on 9th December 1915 but did not resign from the police force until 21st January 1916 with his enlistment in the army becoming effective on 27th January.

Arthur was posted to the

Welsh Guards joining them at the Guards Depot at Caterham in Surrey. He then remained on home service until 9th August 1916 when he went to France and joined the Regiment's 1st Battalion.

It was during the fighting at the Battle of the Somme on 16th September 1916 that Arthur received wounds to his head and abdomen from which he died on 22nd September at the Number 3 Stationary Hospital at Rouen, Northern France. He had been in France for a mere 45 days.

A Dolgellau Welsh language newspaper *Y Dydd (The Day)*, carried the following report of Arthur's death in its edition for 13th October 1916:

"....Ymunodd a'r fyddin ddiwedd Ionawr 1916, a bu farw o'i glwyfau mewn ysbytty yn Ffrainc, Medi 22ain, ac efe yn 22 mlwydd oed. Cyn ymuno a'r fyddin yr oedd yn aelod o Heddlu Sir Forganwg, yn Mountain Ash, lle yr oedd yn fawr ei barch gan ei gyd swyddogion. Cyn ymuno a'r Heddlu gweithiai yn Blaenclydach, ac mae ei dad wedi derbyn lliaws o lythyrâu cydymdeimlad ag ef, ac yn talu

*teyrnged o barch i'w fab fel dyn
ieuanc o gymeriad rhagorol.
Cynhaliwyd cyfarfod coffa
amdano yn nghapel yr
Annibynnwyr yn y Brithdir, nos
Fawrth”.*

*“...He joined the army at the
end of January 1916, and died of
his wounds in hospital in France,
22nd September, at 22 years of
age. Before joining the army he
was a member of the Glamorgan
Constabulary, in Mountain Ash,
where he was held in high regard
by his fellow officers. Before
joining the police he worked in
Blaenclydach, and his father has*

*received numerous letters of
sympathy and paying tribute to
his son as a young man of
excellent character. A memorial
service for him was held in the
Independent chapel at Brithdir
on Tuesday evening.”*

The same newspaper
contained the following
appreciation for sympathy on
20th October 1916:

*“Dymuna Mr. Hugh Pugh,
Tynymyndd, Brithdir, a'r teulu
gydnabod eu diolchgarwch i'r
cyhoedd am y llu llythyrâu, a'r
geiriau caredig y mae wedi eu*



St. Sever Cemetery

derbyn, yr hyn sydd wedi bod yn gymorth anrhaethol iddo i ddal dan y brofedigaeth o golli ei fab Arthur ym maes y frwydr yn Ffrainc.”

“Mr. Hugh Pugh, Tynymynydd, Brithdir, and family would like to convey their thanks to the public for the many letters and kind words they have received, which have been of great support to him in his tribulation in losing his son Arthur on the battlefield in France.”

Arthur is buried at the St. Sever Cemetery in Rouen. During the First World War there were fifteen hospitals in the area and the majority of those who died in them are buried in this cemetery which contains 3,082 Commonwealth burials from the War.

Arthur is also commemorated on the War Memorial at Dolgellau and on the Glamorgan Police War Memorial.

25TH SEPTEMBER

**PC 730 SIDNEY
AMBROSE PHELPS**
GLAMORGAN CONSTABULARY
CORPORAL 1888
1ST BATTALION
WELSH GUARDS



Sidney was born in Grangetown, Cardiff in 1892. He was the son of Charles Morgan Phelps

who had been born in Newport, Monmouthshire. He was a Police Constable in the Cardiff City Police. Sidney's mother was Elizabeth who had also been born in Newport.

Sidney was part of a large family, being one of fourteen children. According to the censuses of 1891, 1901 and 1911 the family had lived at various addresses in the Canton/Grangetown areas of Cardiff: Allerton Street in 1891, Clare Road in 1901 and King's Road in 1911.

Sidney, along with his brothers, Percy and Harry, and his sister, Getrude, were baptised on 12th

January 1899 at St. Barnabas' Church in Grangetown.

In 1911 Sidney was working as a shop assistant, according to the census of that year. In November 1912, however, he joined the Glamorgan Constabulary and in the period before the First World War he was stationed at Gorseinon and Gowerton near Swansea.

After the outbreak of war Sidney enlisted in the army at Swansea on 5th August 1915 and joined 1st Battalion, Welsh Guards and was subsequently promoted to Corporal. It was whilst serving with them during the Battle of the Somme that he was killed in action on 25th September 1916.

He was 23 years of age and single when he died. A newspaper report of his death stated:

"He has four brothers in the Army, two others who have attested, another employed in munition works, and a sister who is a nurse. His brothers in the Army are: Sapper W.H. Phelps, R.E., Private James Phelps, Welsh Regiment, Corporal Henry Phelps, Royal Welsh Fusiliers, and Private J. Phelps, R.A.M.C"

The *Western Mail* of 13th October 1916 carried the following notice:

"PHELPS:-S. A. Phelps, Welsh Guards, aged 23, dearly-loved son of the late C. M Phelps, City Police, and Mrs. E. Phelps, 153, King's Road, Canton, Cardiff.

Could we have raised his dying head,

Or heard his last farewell"

Sidney has no known grave and is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial and the Glamorgan Police War Memorial.

Sadly, Mrs. Phelps' grief was to be renewed before the war's end. Sidney's brother, Harry, was killed in action on 22nd April 1918 whilst serving as Private 54497 with the 16th Battalion of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers during renewed fighting in the Somme area at that time. He was 22 years of age. He is buried at Bouzincourt Communal Cemetery Extension, near Albert. During 1918 it was used largely for the burial of men from the 38th (Welsh) Division. There are a total

of 589 First World War casualties buried in the cemetery.



Private Harry Phelps

8TH DECEMBER

**PC 132 JACK
RANDALL BIRCH**

SWANSEA BOROUGH POLICE
LANCE SERGEANT 243,
1ST BATTALION
WELSH GUARDS



Jack was originally from Staffordshire having been born in Ogley Hay in Brownhills which lies near

Walsall and Lichfield, in 1890. (“Soldiers Died in the Great War” gives his place of birth as “Swansea”. However, the census of 1911-referred to below-gives it as “Staffs Ogleyhay”).

At the census of 1901 the family lived in Silver Street in Brownhills. In the household, in addition to Jack, were his father, William, who had been born in Oldbury, Staffordshire, and his mother, Priscilla, who was originally from Bilston in Staffordshire. Also there were Jack’s older sister, Elizabeth, and his older brothers, William, Harry, Joseph, and Jacob and his younger brother, James.

Those in employment at that time were William (father), coal miner/hewer below ground, William (brother), coal miner/loader below ground, Harry, coal miner labourer/below ground, Joseph, coal miner/driver below ground and Jacob, at 14 years of age, a coal miner/belt boy above ground.

By 1911 Jack had moved to Swansea and joined the Borough’s Police Force since the census of that year records him as being at the Central Police Station along with a number of other police officers including Frank Coffey and Patrick Shea, both of whom were to die as a result of the War, and Charles Gubb who was also to serve with Jack in the army in due course.

Jack enlisted in the army at Swansea on 4th September 1914, initially joining the Grenadier Guards as Private 19282, but then transferred to the 1st Battalion, Welsh Guards after the formation of that regiment in February 1915. He was eventually promoted, becoming a Lance Sergeant.

By December 1916 the Battalion was near Montauban on the Somme in the area of

Maltzhorn Camp and Bronfay Camp, the troops spending three days and nights at a time in the front line. The History of the Welsh Guards in the war describes what conditions were

like in the area. It encapsulates the image which has remained over the years of what the Somme battlefield was like :

“The French had started to make a good line, with deep



*Standing: Jack Birch (left) and Ernest Helson (right)
Seated: Aubrey Smale (left) and Charles Gubb (right)*

trenches and good communication, and when first taken over in frosty weather it was easy to get about; but before anything in the way of revetting could be done a thaw set in and rain. The trenches fell to pieces, subsided within an hour. The whole country became a swamp, and from Haie Wood, between Combles and Morval, to the line, a distance of two and a half miles, each step forward was an effort. Everything possible was done to limit the traffic to the line-rations for the whole period were carried in by the relieving troops-but the absolutely necessary traffic cut the soft muddy ground until men sank up to their knees in the puddled stuff. There was only one line along which anyone could move, and the track became wider and wider; but to leave the track altogether, especially as relief could only be done at night, meant a danger of getting lost in that bare, treeless country, with the even skyline. The march "in" was exhausting; much more so the march "out", after three days in the mud without shelter of any sort or kind. A soup

kitchen was established by Sidney Jones, the padre, at Combles, and another at the railway siding, and they were great blessings. But the men arrived at Bromfay Camp wet to the skin."

And so it was in such conditions that Jack was serving with the Prince of Wales Company of the Battalion when he died. The records show that this occurred on 8th December 1916 when he was killed in action. However it is possible that it was on the night of the 7th and into the 8th since the Battalion's War Diary in its entry for 7th December refers to the Prince of Wales Company as follows:

"PoW got 2 shells coming up...into the line. Killed Sergt Birch and wounding several others"

On 8th January 1917 the *Cambria Daily Leader* reported on Jack's death together with a photograph of him and his colleagues from the Swansea Borough Police who had joined the army and served in the Welsh Guards. They were Ernest Helson, who died of wounds, Aubrey Smale, who also died of

wounds, and Charles Gubb who was wounded and was the only one of the four to survive the War.

In relation to Jack the report stated:

“Sergt. Jack Birch, who was killed in December, had been for six years a constable in the Swansea Police Force, and had been stationed at St. Thomas for almost three years. The photograph is one taken before the four ‘pals’ (all members of the Swansea Police Force) left for France with the Welsh Guards. By this time three out of the four have given their lives for

their country. Sergt. Birch was a well known and popular member of the force, and was much admired for his athletic abilities. News of the death was officially received by his brother, Hy. Birch, of the Newport Police Force, who says that of five brothers, all are in the Constabulary of this country.”

Jack was 26 years of age when he died and single. He is buried at Bronfay Farm Military Cemetery, Bray-sur-Somme. It contains 537 burials and commemorations of the First World War. Jack is also commemorated on the Swansea Police War Memorial Plaque.



Bronfay Farm Military Cemetery



100 years on: The Memorial at Mametz Wood following the Welsh National Service of Remembrance held on 7th July 2016

THE GREAT WAR CENTENARY

1914-1918  2014-2018

South Wales Police is currently gathering information about the many police officers from our predecessor forces of Glamorgan, Swansea, Merthyr Tydfil, Neath and Cardiff who served in the armed forces during the First World War.

We want to ensure we uncover as much information as possible about our proud history, and the many men who served both the force and their country to ensure they are never forgotten.

All the stories and information collected,

including photographs, letters and newspaper coverage from that time will be shared online and on Facebook.

To make a contribution please email:
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south-wales.pnn.police.uk

FIRST WORLD WAR PROJECT GROUP

Gareth Madge (Chair),
Danny Richards, Robin Mellor, Peter Wright,
Paul Wood, Daryl Fahey,
Allison Tennant, Coral Cole, Alan Fry together with Philip Davies of the Western Front Association.



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