

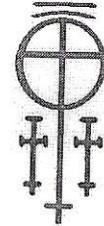
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Meisgyn and Glynrhondda

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The Pontyclun War Memorial

by Edgeley Thomas

The Pontyclun War Memorial is located between Pontyclun and Brynsadler on the east side of Cowbridge Road. The victims of WW1 are recorded on the front of the monument facing the road while those of WW2 are on the side. The following account relates to the First World War fallen only.

My starting point was the Western Front Association for whose help and advice I am grateful. Their website www.powell76.talktalk.net claims to give details of the servicemen on the Pontyclun War Memorial but comparison of the names listed on the website with those recorded on the Memorial shows some discrepancy. The Memorial has 46 names including that of Nurse G. Moseley, the website 60 excluding the nurse. The additional fifteen names are John D. Cooper, G.M.Dunn, P.M.Dunn, Ernest Edwards, D.E. Evans, E.C.Evans, A. Gibbs, Thomas Jenkins, T.J.Jones (both

of them) G.W.Lewis, W. B. McKenzie, E.J.Parker, W.A.Withers and G.Wooding.

Some of these are recorded on the Miskin Memorial but others are Pontyclun men who have apparently been overlooked. Clearly the Western Front Association are aware of these unfortunate omissions and similar experiences in trying to compile a definitive list in respect of Llantrisant Town illustrates the sad fact that some of our memorials are surprisingly incomplete. However, a few of the additions are the names of personnel who have no apparent link with Pontyclun at all. Nevertheless, since the website exists and may be consulted by others I have included all the additional names together with that of Nurse Moseley who was not a combatant and who, in common with several others on the Memorial, survived the war.



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The list, even as augmented, is not necessarily a full list of those who gave their lives for Pontyclun or of those who took part. Inevitably, some servicemen could have had some connection with Pontyclun but are not recognized here. No slight is intended and I apologize for any serious omissions. No doubt some servicemen with Pontyclun connections have their deeds recognized elsewhere on the many memorials in villages and churches in the area apart from the known example of Miskin.

Potentially, there is much information available via websites such as *Ancestry.com* and their military records. I have used *Ancestry* primarily and in particular, for each serviceman where available, records of service, medal rolls and casualty records as well as the Commonwealth War Graves Commission for commemoration or grave location. Census records between 1881 and 1911 were used for background family and address detail where I was able to find it. Some persons have contacted me with information and to them I am grateful.

As far as medals are concerned, campaign medals were awarded to individuals who served in the First World War and met the qualifications laid down for each medal. In general, all those who saw service overseas received a campaign medal. The qualifications for each campaign medal were:

1914 STAR Instituted in 1917 for service ashore in France and Flanders between 5th August and 22nd November 1914. In 1919, a clasp bearing the above dates was authorized and given to those individuals who had actually been under fire between the prescribed dates.

1914/15 STAR Authorized in 1918, this star was awarded to those who saw service in France and Flanders from 23rd November to 31st December 1915, and to those individuals who saw service in any other theatre from 5th August 1914 to 31st December 1915.

BRITISH WAR MEDAL The British War Medal 1914-1920, authorized in 1919, was awarded to eligible service personnel and civilians. Qualifications for the award varied

slightly according to service. The basic requirement for army personnel and civilians was that they either entered a theatre of war, or rendered approved service overseas between 5th August 1914 and 11th November 1918. Service in Russia in 1919 and 1920 also qualified for the award.

VICTORY MEDAL This medal for 1914-1919 was authorized in 1919 and was awarded to all eligible personnel who served on the establishment of a unit in an operational theatre.

Service records included enlistment forms which were signed by the person enlisting and included such information as next of kin, height and weight, as well as a record of the movements, promotions, sickness and injuries sustained. There might be discharge papers if appropriate and, sometimes, copies of letters sent to servicemen's families and replies. However, about 60% of WW1 Records were destroyed in the London blitz in 1940. They were probably stored in the Honeypot Lane complex, near what is now Wembley Stadium. This explains why the service detail on many of the servicemen below is less than some others whose records have survived.

On the matter of casualties, many were buried and then reburied in cemeteries which have been maintained by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. In an appendix following the list of memorials is a brief description of those cemeteries mentioned so that the reader might have some idea of the whereabouts of their remains.

For many servicemen a date of enlistment is given but, for clarification, conscription was introduced for all single men (with some exemptions) between the ages of 18 and 41 with effect from 27th January 1916 under the Military Service Act of 1916. Apart from the professional army, all recruits before this date were volunteers, plus, those who were in the "colours".

Lastly, the birthplace of many servicemen is shown as Llantrisant as extracted from census records. This refers not to the town of Llantrisant itself in many cases but to the area of Llantrisant.

We Shall Remember Them

PRIVATE G ARNOLD

Unfortunately no information has been found for this serviceman.

PRIVATE FRANK ATKINSON, 37934 OF THE 2ND BATTALION ROYAL WELCH FUSILIERS was born in Cardiff and enlisted there on 11th December 1915 when his home was in 88, Albert Street, Canton. He was 24 years old on enlistment and was shown as unmarried and a tin worker. In 1901 Frank lived in 10, Parry Street, Canton with his family which comprised father George originally from Yorkshire and mother Eliza who was born in Devon as well as three brothers and a sister all of whom were born in Cardiff. By 1911, he was living in 2, Bryn Terrace, Brynsadler as a single boarder with Phoebe Hopkins and her family. His brother David also boarded there and both were labourers in the tin works, presumably in Pontyclun. Frank was mobilized and posted on 11th February 1916 to France. His service record shows he was with the 13th Battalion of the RWF but was in the 2nd Battalion by the end of July 1916. He embarked from Southampton on 19th July 1916 and arrived at Rouen the next day. Frank's casualty record shows he suffered from influenza in December 1916 and also had "chilled feet" in March 1917.

Frank was killed in action on the 23rd April 1917 and is commemorated on Bay 6 of the Arras Memorial as he has no known grave. He was awarded the Victory and British War Medals. This would be 1st or 2nd April around Bullecourt.

The 2nd Battalion RWF was very famous during the First World War. At some time it contained Robert Graves, Sassoon, Wilfred Owen and many other "War Poets" in its ranks. Up until very late in the war it was one of the last pieces of the professional army.

PRIVATE ARTHUR BAGGS, 46251 OF THE 1ST BATTALION WILTSHIRE REGIMENT was born in Swindon in 1897. He lived at 6, Dixon Street, Swindon in 1901 with Samuel F Baggs his father and his mother Margaret who was a Briton Ferry girl. A brother and sister made up the family. There was also a boarder. By 1911, the family had moved to 69, Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun where Arthur's father was a railway engine driver. Arthur himself was a steam hammer driver in the iron foundry aged 15. He enlisted in Pontypridd. His casualty record shows him to be in the Duke of Edinburgh's Wiltshire Regiment and that he died of wounds on 27th October 1918. Frank was buried in the Rocquigny-Equancourt British Military Cemetery, Manancourt, Somme France, grave reference X 111 A29. This reference is slightly different to that shown on the original Pontyclun War Memorial website. Arthur was awarded the Victory and British War Medals.

PRIVATE CHARLES BARTLETT, 5520 AND 241726 OF THE 159 BRIGADE 53RD DIVISION WELCH REGIMENT

Charles was born in Miskin in 1893, the son of William and Elizabeth Bartlett of "Ivy Cottage", Miskin who were both born in Llantrisant according to the 1901 and 1911 census records. He also lived in Miskin but enlisted in Cardiff. Unfortunately Charles's army service record cannot be located. He appears to have been one of seven children and was a haulier in his teens. He was killed in action in the first battle of Gaza in Palestine on 26th March 1917 aged 24 and has no known grave. He is commemorated on the Jerusalem Memorial in Israel (panels 30 to 32) and the Miskin Memorial. Charles was awarded the Victory and British War Medals.

CORPORAL JOHN BENJAMIN BARTLETT, 40094 OF "A" BATTALION THE TANK CORPS

Again, no service record is available for John but the 1891 census shows him living in New Mill, Miskin as a 3 year old probably the first born child (of seven) to David and Martha Bartlett of Llantrisant and Cornwall respectively. David Bartlett was a baker and shopkeeper in the village in 1901 and ten years later was a master baker and grocer living in the Post Office there. When John was 23 years of age in 1911 he was a County Court Clerk for Pontypridd, Ystradyfodwg and Porth whereas three of his brothers were in the bakery business possibly with their father.

John and his wife Edna eventually lived at 55 Tynwydd Road, Barry but he enlisted in Pontypridd. His parents moved out of Miskin to 49, Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun. John was killed in action on 7th June 1917 aged 29 in the Battle of Messines which involved 72 tanks of "A" and "B" Battalions of the 2nd Tank Brigade as well as 11 Anzac, IX and X Corps. His casualty record shows him being in the Machine Gun Corps (heavy branch) which was the initial name for the Tank Corps and the medal roll index shows him as Acting Corporal.

John was buried at Underhill Farm Cemetery, Row A grave 18. He is also commemorated on the Miskin Village Memorial. He was awarded the Victory and British War Medals.

PRIVATE ALFRED BEDDOWS, 241797 OF 14TH BATTALION ROYAL WELCH FUSILIERS 113TH BRIGADE, 38TH WELSH DIVISION AND 50348 OF WELCH REGIMENT

Alfred was born in Rowley Regis, Staffordshire in 1881 and was one of six children to Joseph and Sarah. He was, as a young man, a labourer in the pipe works and by the time he was 30 years old, was a glaze setter in a pottery. In the 1911 census, he is recorded as living in Dudley, Staffordshire and was a single man. By April 1916, when he enlisted in Cardiff, he was 35 years old and lived in Glyniff Houses in Pontyclun. At less than 5'3" tall, he was a small man and worked as a labourer. His service records show that Alfred embarked at Southampton in June 1917 for Rouen in France. He was a casualty on 15th January 1918 and went to hospital four days later. He rejoined his battalion on 22nd January and was killed on 22nd April 1918.

Alfred's personal effects were sent to his father Joseph at 1, Loftus Villas, Pontyclun. He was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal and his family were sent a Memorial Scroll in August 1920. He is buried at Bouzincourt Ridge Cemetery, Albert, France, grave reference IC 21.

PRIVATE HARVEY CALLOW, 35281 OF 13TH BATTALION (2ND RHONDDA) WELCH REGIMENT 114TH BRIGADE 38TH WELSH DIVISION

Harvey Callow was born in 1897 in Llantrisant the son of Herbert and Martha Callow who were born in Gloucestershire and Crewe, Staffordshire respectively. Harvey's parents lived in Meadow Cottage, Cross Inn Road in 1891 but 10 years later in 1901 were living in East Dean in the Forest of Dean. Herbert was probably seeking work as he was a collier and South Wales as well as the Forest of Dean offered employment. Five of the six children were born in Llantrisant. By 1911 Martha Callow was a widow as the census for 21, Lock St, Abercynon shows Harvey himself was living at this time in the Railway Restaurant in Pontyclun and described as a nephew of Thomas Varker who was the Restaurant Keeper. No service record for this serviceman has been found but the casualty list shows he was killed in action in Flanders, France on 21st August 1917 (aged only 20) and that he lived in Abercynon. Perhaps he had moved back from Pontyclun to live with his family. Harvey has no known grave but is commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial; Panel 93/94. He was awarded the Victory and British War medals.

The 2nd Rhondda made a name for itself in the early days of the battle for Mametz wood. The 38th was also known as the "Lloyd George Division". Lt. G. had War Office permission to raise two Divisions in Wales. This is the only one to be formed.

CORPORAL JOHN STEPHEN CARTER, 457028 3RD BATTALION 1ST CENTRAL ONTARIO REGIMENT, CANADIAN INFANTRY

I have not yet established the connection between John and Pontyclun. His two page attestation paper (he was a volunteer) for the Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force had to be completed personally and he signed the declaration and oath on 2nd June 1915 in Montreal. That paper shows he was born in Bridgetown, Barbados in November 1886 and that his mother Laura T Carter lived there when he signed on. His trade or calling was "soldiering" having already served 2 years in the Barbados Volunteers and 6 years in the United States Army. So, he was 29 years old when he signed forms, was nearly 6 feet tall with blue eyes and fair hair.

John was killed in action on 13th June 1916 at Ypres not yet 30 years of age. He has no known grave and is commemorated on the Menin Gate Memorial panel 18. I have been able to find no information on any medals he might have been awarded.

GUNNER F W CLARK

I have been unable to trace a Service Record but found, purely by accident, an entry in the GWR Roll of Honour 1914-18 of "F W Clark, Lantrisant Locomotive and Carriage Dept.". The National Railway Museum in York has confirmed that an entry was made in the GWR Magazine for August 1916 to this effect. More than 20,000 railway employees died in this war. Gunner Clark is further described in GWR records as being in the Royal Field Artillery, 264 Brigade with Service Number 1871. In Forces War Records he is shown to have died on 21 May 1916 aged 22 and is commemorated on the Cairo War Memorial and on Grave reference F69. On the Medal Rolls Index he is shown as Frederick William Clarke and was awarded the Victory and 1915 Star Medals having first served in France from 23 November 1915. The only link with Pontyclun appears to be his having worked for the GWR in Lantrisant Station.

LANCE CORPORAL SAMUEL COPE 2497682 7TH BATTALION ROYAL WELCH FUSILIERS, 158 BRIGADE 53RD DIVISION

Samuel Cope enlisted at Crewe on 11th December 1915, an unmarried farmer aged 30 and standing less than 5'3" tall. His mother Mildred's address was shown as the Cottage Hospital, Crewe and his father's as 167, Ford Lane Crewe. His

original service number was 291682 and he had at least 7 siblings. Samuel was born in 1889 in Crewe and when he was 14 he lived in Winstanton, Crewe working as a cart boy on a farm with the Sadler family. He was a fireman at the railway works in Crewe in 1911 and his address was 563, West St.

A telegraph was sent to his mother at the Cottage Hospital, Crewe on 30th December 1917 saying that Samuel was reported missing and presumed drowned. He was aboard the Hospital Transport "Aragon" which was torpedoed and sank on that date entering the port of Alexandria, Egypt with the loss of 380 officers and men of Commonwealth forces and a further 230 non combatants out of a total of 2,500 on board. The torpedo was launched from UC 34 (see www.shipwrecks.org.uk) and a full account of the sinking can be found on www.merchantnavy.com and other sites. The destroyer HMS Attack was also sunk attempting to rescue soldiers and nurses.

Samuel's life is commemorated at the Chatby Memorial in Egypt which details the loss of almost 1,000 Commonwealth services men who have no known grave but the sea. He was awarded the Victory and British War medals. I have been unable to find any obvious connection between this serviceman and/or his family to the Pontyclun area up to 1911.

PRIVATE JOHN D COUPER 14033 11TH BATTALION ROYAL WELCH FUSILIERS

This serviceman, who enlisted in Pontyclun, was born in Llanbleddian, Cowbridge in 1890 the son of John and Mary Couper. John senior was from Barnes, Surrey, a seaman in the Royal Navy and his wife was from Llanbleddian. By 1901, the family had moved from Hampshire to Mortlake, Surrey where John senior was a "timekeeper man". The connection between John junior and Pontyclun became apparent in the 1901 census for Pontyclun when he was shown as a 21 year old iron miner and a boarder living with Frederick and Eleanor Hall in 21, School Street. At various times the addresses of the Couper family were Bank House, 55, High Street, Staple Hill Bristol and (in 1891) Station Approach, Alverstoke, Hants.

No service record has been found for John but he was killed in action aged 27 in Serbia on 20th March 1917 and was buried at Karasouli Military Cemetery in Greece; grave reference C 533. He was awarded the 1915 Star, Victory and British War Medals.

The 11th RWF was probably a "Pioneer Battalion" engaged in building trenches etc. for which an iron miner would have been well qualified.

PRIVATE STANLEY IDRIS DAVIES 44796 AND SE 35544 ROYAL WELCH FUSILIERS ARMY VETINARY CORPS ATTACHED APO

The Royal Army Veterinary Corps was founded in 1796 and for the first 150 years mainly cared for horses of which there were about 2.5 million in World War 1. Stanley was the son of Thomas and Jane Davies of 6, GWR Cottages, and School Street, Pontyclun and was born in 1893. His father was a railway plate layer. In 1911, Stanley and his sister Olive were with their parents in Pontyclun aged 18 and 14 respectively, at which time he was a "riser" in the tin plate works.

Stanley died on 20th July 1919 and is buried at Kantara Memorial Cemetery in Egypt. He was awarded the Victory and British War Medals. No service record has been found.

GUARDSMAN DAVID DEVONSHIRE 13025 2ND BATTALION GRENADIER GUARDS

David was born in Brynsadler in 1887 the son of Joseph and Mary Ann Devonshire who were born in Stoke Poges and Pontypool respectively. They were a large family of at least 8 children and were recorded in successive census records as living either in Talygarn Lodge (in 1891 and 1911) or as near Talygarn (1901 census). In 1901, David was a 14 year old coal hewer and 10 years later was described as an iron ore miner. His father was still working aged 66 (in 1911) as a labourer "At Talygarn". It appears he always lived with his parents and siblings.

David enlisted in Cardiff but was killed early in the war on Christmas Day 1914 in France aged 27. His sacrifice is included on the Le Touret Memorial on panel 2 and he was awarded the Victory and British War medals as well as the 1915 Star. David's service record cannot be located.

PRIVATE ARTHUR WILLIAM DONNE 823256 142ND BATTALION CANADIAN INFANTRY

Arthur is the second serviceman commemorated on the Pontyclun War Memorial to have been in the Canadian forces. He was born in St Athan on the 25th January 1871 to his father William (who was a farmer at Llantwit Road, St Athan in 1871) and his mother Catherine who was born in Llantrisant. She was the keeper of the Pontyclun Post Office in 1881 and was then a widow with her sons Arthur and Edward. Her two sons were to become Post Office clerks in Pontyclun and in 1891 all the family lived at 1, Bute Crescent, Pontyclun. Arthur was now aged 22. Ten years later in 1901, Arthur and his family were at the same address but he was a farmer.

For unknown reasons, Arthur sought a new life in Canada and departed Liverpool on aboard the ship "Megantic" and arrived in Halifax, Nova Scotia on 7th April 1912. His service record shows he lived at RRW5, London, Ontario. By

enlistment time he had married Elizabeth and they had their home at 307, Dundas Street, London, Ontario where he was a farmer. On enlistment on 13th December 1915 he declared he had served for 4 years in the 2nd Welch Regiment and that he was 44 years and 11 months old. He stood 6'2" tall.

The War Grave detail shows that Arthur died on 7th March 1919 aged 48 at All Saints Hospital, Vauxhall Bridge Road, London, SW1. His wife's address at that time was at 17, Great Ormond Street, London. He was buried in Brookwood Military Cemetery (the largest Commonwealth cemetery in the UK covering 37 acres) with reference 649-D-17990 and grave reference 183217; plot 3 row L grave 13. Details of any medals awarded are unknown.

2ND LT. GWYNNE MORGAN DUNN PS 2587 ROYAL WELCH FUSILIERS AND WEST RIDING REGIMENT (DUKE OF WELLINGTON'S)

This serviceman is the brother of Captain Philip Morgan Dunn (below). Gwynne was born in 1894 to parents Philip John and Anne Margaret Dunn of "Crofta" Pontyclun which is the property between Groesfaen and the Castell Mynach on the south side of the A 4119 road adjacent to Ty Newydd Farm. Gwynne's father was a JP and in 1891 then living with his family in Bray, Berkshire. By 1901, the family was in "Crofta" and had grown to include 3 sons and a daughter. Ten years later in 1911, the family was still in "Crofta" but Gwynne was in Uppingham School, Rutland as a 17 year old boarder.

Gwynne began his army career as a private in the Fusiliers, entered the war on 12th November 1915 and was commissioned on 25th September 1916 joining the West Riding Regiment as 2nd Lieutenant.

He died of wounds on 23rd February 1917 aged 23 just 3 weeks after his brother Philip and was buried at Grove Town Cemetery, Meulte, Somme; grave reference 111 A7. It was near this cemetery that in 1916 the 34th and 2/2nd London Casualty Clearing Stations were established to take casualties of the Somme battlefield. He was awarded the Victory and British War medals and the 1915 Star which were sent to his father at 249, Cromwell Road, London. Gwynne is also commemorated on the Miskin Village Memorial.

CAPTAIN PHILIP MORGAN DUNN 2ND WELSH RFA (NUMBER 1211) AND 8TH BATTALION ROYAL WELCH FUSILIERS

This serviceman was the brother of Gwynne Morgan Dunn (above), he was born as the first son in 1889 in Llantrisant and, as a 22 year old in 1911, was a student in Cambridge. His service/pension record shows he spent a brief period in the 2nd Welsh RFA and was in the Territorial Force from 9th August 1914; he enlisted in Cardiff. He was discharged at his own request and this was approved on 14th October 1914 presumably so he could apply for a commission. He attended an Officer Training Course in Cowbridge.

Philip first entered the war in Gallipoli in June 1915 but was killed in action on 3rd February 1917. He was buried at the Amara War Cemetery in Iraq, grave reference XXV. He was awarded the same medals as his brother Gwynne and they were sent to his father in Cromwell Road, London.

A large marble plaque in the chancel of St David's Church, Groesfaen commemorates these two officers and the family lost a third, their youngest son, who died in 1926 following gallant service in the Great War. Captain Brian Morgan Dunn, M.C., Croix de Geurre, of the Welch Regiment was buried at St David's on October 6th 1926 aged 30.

Born in Carmarthen, the father, Philip John Dunn was the son of a tin-plate manufacturer from Somerset and he settled at Crofta after marrying one of the daughters of Evan Morgan of Cymmer, representative of a long line of Llantrisant landowners.

PRIVATE WILLIAM PERCIVAL EDMUNDS 34208 MACHINE GUN CORPS AND 3656 GORDON HIGHLANDERS

I am grateful to Glyn Bartlett formerly of Pontyclun and now living near Bristol for information on this serviceman. William was born in Coity in 1886 the son of John (a railway clerk) and Sarah Edmunds who were both born in the Bridgend area. Ten years later, the family including William and his 6 sisters were living at 86, Theobald Road, Canton, Cardiff where their father John was a relief railway clerk. By 1911, the family had moved up in the world as John was now railway station manager at Pontyclun (at that time known as Llantrisant Station) and living in "Glyn", Llantrisant Road, Pontyclun near the present Cardiff bus stop. William lived there also and, then aged 24 was a single man and a clerk in a colliery office.

The service record for William is not complete and appears contradictory in recording his service in the Machine Gun Corps and with the Gordon Highlanders. It shows he enlisted on 26th June 1915 at Cricklewood, Middlesex into the Gordon Highlanders where he served "at home" until 4th May 1916. He was 28 when he enlisted. On 11th October he embarked at Devonport for Basrah where he arrived on 17th November 1916. Eight days later he was in hospital with a

stomach bug. A card record shows William was admitted to hospital in Mesopotamia the same month and was transferred to India on 18th December arriving in Bombay (present day Mumbai) a week later. He then went on to Alexandria, Egypt and was there by 31st January 1917. His Discharge Record shows he was discharged as "no longer physically fit for war service" on 7th May 1917.

There is also a service record showing William's enlistment into the Machine Gun Corps which states he had previously served with the Gordon Highlanders and also that he was "T.F." (possibly transferred) on 4th May 1916, the same date as that which ended his service "at home" with the Gordon Highlanders. A letter from his family to the War Office in December 1921 pointed out that William's service had been with the Gordon Highlanders first and the Machine Gun Corps second. William died on 7th November 1918 of influenza and pneumonia just 4 days before the end of hostilities and was awarded the Victory and British War Medals.

ACTING LANCE SERGEANT ERNEST EDWARDS 12485 1ST BATTALION SOMERSET LIGHT INFANTRY
Ernest was born in 1885 in Mynyddislwyn, Monmouthshire as the fourth son to Henry and Rachel Edwards who, in 1891, lived at Gwernygrych in Peterston super Ely with Rachel's father William Morgan who was a farmer aged 77. Ernest's parents were from the Pendoylan area. Ten years later Ernest was 16 and worked on the farm with his parents. By 1911, Ernest had married Amelia Agnes and lived at 44, South Market Street, Newport with two sons; he was by then a fireman on the railway.

There is no service record for Ernest but he entered the war in France on 1st June 1915 after enlisting in Pontyclun, probably a "Kitchener Man". He was killed in action aged 31 at the Somme on 1st July 1916 and is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Pier and Face 2a as well as in Bethania Chapel, Pendoylan. He was awarded the Victory and British War Medals.

A high number of the 1st Somerset LI was wiped out on the first day of the Somme Battle.

PRIVATE D J EDWARDS

Unfortunately, despite extensive research and seeking help from local people via newspapers, no information on this serviceman has been found.

PRIVATE DAVID EMLYN EVANS 37822 8TH BATTALION LEICESTER REGIMENT AND 581 GLAMORGAN FIELD COMPANY (11TH TRAINING RESERVE BATTALION)

David was a Blaengarw man born in 1890 to David and Harriet Evans who were born in Pembrey and Llanelli respectively. They were a large family of nine children. In 1891 they lived in Llangeinor at 1, David Street where David senior was a fireman in the colliery. The first three children were born in Tylorstown probably reflecting the need to move for their father's employment. In 1901, they were still living in David Street with a larger family than ten years earlier and with David 11 years old. In 1911, they were resident in Gelligaer where David was a "repairer in mine" and his father a "mining contractor".

His Short Service record shows David enlisted at Pontyclun into the Glamorgan Field Company aged 26 in December 1915 as an unmarried man living at 31, Brookfield Terrace, Pontygwindy, Caerphilly. He embarked for France on 16th January 1917. His casualty form shows he was wounded but gave no date and also shows he was with the 6th Battalion before being posted to the 8th on 2nd February 1917. He was killed in action on 22nd March 1918 and is commemorated on Pozieres, the largest Australian Memorial on the Somme, panel 29/30. He was awarded the Victory and British War Medals.

LANCE CORPORAL ERNEST CHARLES EVANS 15229 11TH BATTALION WELCH REGIMENT

The casualty record for this serviceman shows he was born in Brynsadler but his residence was in Caldicot. His stay in Brynsadler after birth in 1893 must have been brief as he was recorded as living in Caldicot village in 1901 with his parents, two brothers and a sister. Ernest's father, William, was a railway signalman from Ledbury, Gloucestershire but lived at Lanelay Farm in St Nicholas in 1891 as a lodger with Catherine Thomas and family. His mother Anna Diment Evans was from Llandaff, Cardiff originally. The 1911 census has the family living at London Row, Caldicot at which time Ernest was an eighteen year old insurance clerk.

After entering the war in France on 5th September 1915, Ernest was killed in action aged 25 on 31st March 1918 in the Balkan Theatre of war at Salonika and is buried at the Karasouli Military Cemetery, Greece grave reference E 964. He was awarded the 1915 Star, Victory and British War Medals.

PRIVATE CHARLES HENRY FREEGARD G1118 2ND BATTALION ROYAL SUSSEX REGIMENT

Edward and Harriet Freegard, the parents of Charles, are first recorded in Brynsadler for the 1881 census with their name spelt Freeguard. Edward was born in Calne, Wiltshire and his wife in St Austell, Cornwall; he was successively an iron miner and coal miner. Charles was born Llantrisant (probably in Brynsadler) in 1897 and eventually had eleven brothers and sisters. The family was still in Brynsadler in 1901 and eventually lived at 23 Cowbridge Road where they were in 1911. Charles was now 14 years of age and was a brick maker by trade.

Charles enlisted in Cowbridge and entered the war in France on 11th January 1915. He was killed in action aged only 18 (less than 4 months after entering the war) on 9th May 1915 at the Battle of Aubers Ridge-the attack on the Rue de Bois. The infantry attack did well on this day but the reserves had been held back about 20 miles behind the front line. He is commemorated on the Le Touret Memorial, panel 20/21, Pas de Calais, France and was awarded the 1915 Star, Victory and British War Medals.

More information on the Freegard family is given in *A History of Brynsadler and its People*.

PRIVATE ALBERT GIBBS 56571 16TH (CARDIFF) BATTALION WELCH REGIMENT 115 BRIGADE, 38TH WELSH DIVISION AND 2168 7TH WELSH CYCLISTS REGIMENT

Albert Gibbs was born in 1897 in Cowbridge to Joseph and Florence Gibbs born in Birmingham and London respectively. When he was 4 years of age his family lived in East Village in Cowbridge and at that time there were no fewer than 7 sons and just one daughter. Albert and family lived at 23, Eastgate, Cowbridge at census time in 1911 by which time there were nine sons and two daughters. His father was a printer and stationer in a business known as "Gibbs and Brown"; many of the children were working in the family business including Albert who was a "printer/compositor".

Albert enlisted in Bridgend in November 1915 when he gave his address as 23, Eastgate, Cowbridge. His move to France came on 29th July 1916. He died of wounds on 14th September 1916 aged 19 and was buried in Essex Farm Cemetery, Ypres grave reference plot 111, G 16. He was awarded the Victory and British War Medals.

The 16th Cardiff was also known as the Cardiff City Battalion as opposed to the "Cardiff Pals".

2ND LIEUTENANT REGINALD GEORGE WILLIAM GILLHAM 1735 SUSSEX YEOMANRY AND 320123 13TH BATTALION ROYAL SUSSEX REGIMENT 116TH BRIGADE 39TH DIVISION

Reginald was born in 1896 in Petworth, Sussex to George and Jane Gilham (sic). In 1901 the family was living in Bognor. Ten years later in 1911 George was a "railway station master" living in Station House at the Railway Station in Bognor and his son Reginald a 15 year old railway clerk.

He entered the war in the Balkans in October 1915 and was killed on 26th September 1917 in the attack on Polygon Wood/Passchendaele aged 22. His medal record shows he was awarded the 1915 Star plus the Victory and British War medals. That record also shows his father's address was "The Laurels", South Leigh Road, Emsworth, Hampshire. Reginald's sacrifice is commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial; Panel 86. It is not clear what this serviceman's connection was with Pontyclun.

PRIVATE WILLIAM JOSEPH GRIMES 13231 WILTSHIRE REGIMENT AND 2923 "B" COMPANY, 6TH BATTALION ROYAL MUNSTER FUSILIERS 30TH BRIGADE 10TH DIVISION

Joseph was the 5th son of John and Emma Grimes who lived in School Street, Llantrisant at the time of the 1901 census. He was born in 1895 in Llantrisant. The 1911 census recorded Joseph aged 18 living at 68, Loftus Terrace, Pontyclun (opposite the present day Leekes store) which is an error as there was not a house of that number. He was a miner.

He enlisted in Porth and was resident there according to his casualty record. Joseph entered the war in the Balkans on 9th July 1915 and had married Mary Kate Outlaw whose address was 109, Lower High Street, Malmesbury, Wiltshire. Mary was a domestic servant in the Fox and Hounds Inn at Llanharry in the 1911 census. The Battalion embarked at Liverpool on that date and sailed for Gallipoli via Mudros. Landing took place at Suvla Bay on 7th August 1915 but he died of wounds on 15th August 1915 when with the 6th Battalion. His sacrifice is commemorated on the Helles Memorial panel 185 to 190 where his name is shown as Joseph Samuel Grimes. He was awarded the 1915 Star, the Victory and British War Medals.

CORPORAL STANLEY HARWOOD 14682 11TH BATTALION ROYAL WELCH FUSILIERS 67TH BRIGADE 22ND DIVISION

This serviceman was shown as a three year old in the 1901 census for Brynsadler, the son of William and Mary Harwood of 28, Cowbridge Road. He had been baptized at St Paul's Church on 23rd March 1898. William was a carter on a farm

and, like his wife Mary, was born in Pembroke Dock. Three years before the war started the family lived in 26 Cowbridge Road, Brynsadler when Stanley was 13 years of age; there were five children in all.

Stanley enlisted in Wrexham and entered the war in France on 5th September 1915. He survived until the last year of hostilities by which time he was fighting in Serbia and lost his life on 18th September 1918 only a few weeks before the end of hostilities at the age of 21. Stanley was buried in the Doiran Military Cemetery, Greece, grave reference ID 19, and was awarded the 1915 Star, Victory and British War Medals.

PRIVATE HENRY HAROLD HOBDAY 2973 1ST BATTALION WELSH GUARDS 3RD GUARDS BRIGADE GUARDS DIVISION

This serviceman's familiar name appears to have been Harold as it is by this name that he appeared in the 1891 and 1901 census records. In the earlier census, Harold lived with his parents John and Anne Hobday in Vine Cottage, Miskin with a brother Herbert and in 1901 in Windsor Crescent, Pontyclun. The records show he was born in Llantrisant but his parents were born in Gloucestershire (Woolaston and Dursley respectively). They had moved to **16, Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun** by 1911 by which time Harold was a grocer's assistant.

No service record can be found for Harold but we do know he enlisted in Pontypridd. As he was killed in action on 31st July 1917 his battalion was involved in the Battle of Pilckem Ridge and attacked from Baboon trench sustaining 138 casualties. He was buried in Artillery Wood Cemetery grave reference 11D 18. I have been unable to trace Harold's name in the Medal Rolls and it appears that for reasons unknown only about 90% were recorded. Presumably his family would have received at least the Victory and British War Medals.

LANCE CORPORAL A F HUNT 35374 20th BATTALION WELSH REGIMENT [3RD RHONDDA] AND 65252 CHESHIRE REGIMENT was enlisted as Frank Hunt late in 1915 aged 21 years and 10 months according to his Service Record. His address in 1911 at census time was 3, Fairwater Grove, Llandaff, Cardiff where he was living aged 17 and was an assistant in his father's printing business. Frank was born in Cardiff and had at least three siblings. He was wounded in 1916 but appears to have survived the war as the War Dispersal Unit sent him, at his new address of "Milverton", Peterstone-super-Ely, in January 1919 his identification certificate which granted 28 days furlough after which he was not allowed to wear uniform plus an advance of £2!! Frank Hunt was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal which he did not receive until 1922.

PRIVATE WILLIAM D JAMES 21379 3RD BATTALION AND 2ND BATTALION WELSH REGIMENT William was recorded in the 1901 census as being in East Village, Cowbridge "close to the Edmond's Arms" when he was 9 years of age. His parents were John and Harriet James; John was described as a hay cutter. They lived in Llanbleddian in 1911 by which time William was a single 19 year old hay cutter as was his father.

The service record shows William enlisted in Cowbridge on 6th November 1914 when he was 22 years old and an unmarried labourer. He was posted to the 3rd Battalion on 4th December 1914 and then to the 2nd Battalion on 17th February 1915 when he entered the war in France. Less than 3 months later, William was killed in action on 9th May 1915 at L'Epinette aged 23. His personal effects were sent to his father at "Brynglas", Cowbridge Road, Aberthin, near Cowbridge in May 1916. He has no known grave and is commemorated on the Le Touret Memorial panels 23 and 24. William was awarded the 1915 Star, The Victory and British War Medals.

LANCE CORPORAL THOMAS JENKINS 14680 "C" COMPANY 11TH BATTALION ROYAL WELSH FUSILIERS

Thomas was born in 1894 in Llantrisant (the area not necessarily the town) to William and Ellen (nee McCarthy) Jenkins. In 1891 Ellen was shown to be living with her family as a 23 year old single woman in Groesfaen with her parents Edward and Mary. Ten years later in 1901 William and Ellen were living with Ellen's parents in Groesfaen with their three children including Thomas who was then seven years of age. Groesfaen was still the home of the family in 1911 when Thomas was a 17 year old clerk in the colliery and his father a labourer in the limestone quarry.

No service record for Thomas has been found but he enlisted in Wrexham and entered the war on 5th September 1915 in France. He died of wounds at Salonika in the Balkan Theatre of the war aged 24 on 21st September 1918 only six weeks or so before the end of hostilities. He was buried at the Karasouli Military Cemetery, Greece grave reference C590 and was awarded the 1915 Star, Victory and British War Medals.

PRIVATE THOMAS JOHN JONES 14030 11TH BATTALION ROYAL WELSH FUSILIERS

This serviceman was born in Llantrisant and enlisted for service in Pontyclun. No service record has been found for him as there has been for a serviceman of the same name whose details follow in the next section. Private Thomas 14030 died

of wounds in Salonika as part of the Balkan Campaign on 7th November 1916 having entered the war in France on 5th September 1915. He was buried at the Karasouli Military Cemetery, Greece grave reference D 736. He was awarded the 1915 Star, Victory and British War Medals.

PRIVATE THOMAS JOHN JONES WR 279824 AND 388433 ROYAL ENGINEERS (MONMOUTHSHIRE)

Thomas was one of at least three Jones brothers from Lewis Street Pontyclun to have fought in World War 1; Thomas survived but his brothers William Herbert and Edward Reginald perished as will be detailed later. Thomas was born in 1888 to John and Sarah Jones in Llanharan and appears to have been their first child. In 1891 the family lived in Lanelay Cottage at a time when John was a railway platelayer. Both Thomas's parents were from the Brecon area. By 1901 they had moved to 6, Lewis Street, Pontyclun. John was still working on the railway but the family had expanded to nine children and they had a boarder as well. Ten years later, John was a Foreman Platelayer on the railway and Thomas a 23 year old blacksmith which was probably one of the reasons he survived the war in as much as he would not have been a fighting soldier.

Thomas enlisted on 11th December 1915 into the Royal Engineers and described himself as a striker/riveter and unmarried. He was put on reserve the day after enlisting and posted on 27th April 1916. He married Ellen Jane Northey at Pontyridon on 11th September 1916 and made their home at Greenfield House in Talbot Road, Llantrisant. His service record shows he embarked on 30th September 1916 and also that he was described as a boilermaker and from 26th February 1918 as a superior boilermaker which entitled him to an increase in wages from 1/8d to two shillings (ten pence in present day coinage) per day. Each infantryman was paid one shilling per day in 1914-18. At Agincourt, 1415, an archer was paid 4d. a day, a top archer six pence. Not much of a rise in 500 years? He was back in the UK on 27th August 1919 and subsequently signed a form to the effect that he suffered no disability from his experiences. He was awarded the Victory and British War Medals.

SERGEANT WILLIAM HERBERT JONES 14706 11TH BATTALION ROYAL WELCH FUSILIERS 67 BRIGADE 22ND DIVISION

William was brother to Thomas John Jones (see above) and Edward Reginald Jones (see below) of 6, Lewis Street, Pontyclun and enlisted in Wrexham. He was born in 1892 in Llantrisant as were all his brothers and sisters. Family movements can be seen in the account of his brother Thomas John Jones (above). In 1901 the census showed he was a 20 year old single man and was a "riser" by trade. He entered the war on 5th September 1915 in France and married a lady from Ty Glas, Pentyrch who became Mrs M Jones.

William was killed in action on 18th September 1918 in Serbia and is buried in the Doiran Military Cemetery grave reference VA 11. This was the identical date and place as Corporal Stanley Harwood (above) who was also in the Royal Welch Fusiliers 67th Brigade 22nd Division. William was awarded the 1915 Star, Victory and British War Medals.

EDWARD REGINALD JONES 35282 14TH (SWANSEA) BATTALION WELCH REGIMENT 114TH BRIGADE 38TH (WELSH) DIVISION

This serviceman was the brother of Thomas John Jones and William Herbert Jones (for both see above) who lived at 6, Lewis Street, Pontyclun. Family movements can be seen in the account of Thomas John Jones (above).

Edward, who was shown as Edwin in the 1901 census for Pontyclun, was born in 1897 in Llantrisant and was shown as a 13 year old scholar in the 1911 census. He enlisted in Cardiff, was killed in action in the France/Flanders arena on 26th May 1916 aged 18 and was buried at the Royal Irish Rifles Graveyard in Laventie grave reference 11G2. He was awarded the Victory and British War Medals.

PRIVATE EVAN JONES 1558 1ST BATTALION WELSH GUARDS 3RD GUARDS BRIGADE GUARDS DIVISION

Evan was born in Llantrisant to David and Elizabeth Jones in 1879. I have been unable to find the whereabouts of Evan in the first census after his birth (1881) but his mother Elizabeth was living in Windsor Terrace, Llantrisant as Elizabeth Llewellyn with her husband Thomas Llewellyn. Evan was living with his maternal grandmother Elizabeth Jones (b.1820) at 11, Windsor Terrace in 1891 aged 10 and ten years later appears to be still living there aged 20 although the grandson's name was shown as Evan Moses.

Evan's mother lived at "Pontyclun (sic) Farm in 1891 and 1901 with her husband and was there in 1911 although by then she was a widow aged 54; her mother Elizabeth was also living there aged 91. Evan enlisted in Tonypandy and entered the war in France on 15th October 1915. However, he died of wounds on 4th October 1916 aged 36 after the action at Flers-Courcelette/Morval/capture of Les Boeufs in the period 15th to 25th September 1915. He was buried at Brompton Cemetery, London grave reference 173828. He was awarded the 1915 Star, Victory and British War Medals.

PRIVATE GEORGE WILLIAM LEWIS 14039 11TH BATTALION ROYAL WELCH FUSILIERS

George was born in 1894 to William and Elizabeth Lewis in Llanblethian, Cowbridge and in 1901 lived at Crossway Cottage, Llanblethian with his parents and a younger brother plus two sisters. The family home was later to be in Danygraig Terrace, Talbot Green although the 1911 census shows them at Talbot Road, Llantrisant. George was shown as 17 years of age and a "miner's boy at colliery".

He enlisted in Pontyclun and entered the war in France on 5th September 1915 only to lose his life three years later on 24th September 1918 aged 25 in Serbia. His life is commemorated on the Doiran Memorial in Greece. George was awarded the 1915 Star, Victory and British War Medals.

G LEYSHON

Despite an extensive search it has not been possible to make a definitive identification of this serviceman. However, in the 1911 census at 9, GWR Cottages, Pontyclun there was a Gwilym Leyshon, then a single man of 24, and a boarder living with George and Mary Trotman and their 4 children. Gwilym was a platelayer by trade and born in Cefn Hirgoed. Probably this is the serviceman referred to on the Memorial. The 1891 census shows a person of this name as a 2 year old son to William and Ann Leyshon then living in Kelly Row, Coity and in 1901 a Gwilym Leyshon was a 14 year old living in Coity with his family but his mother's name was given as Mary; perhaps William had remarried.

LANCE CORPORAL JAMES GRIFFITH LUNN 1807 1ST/5TH BATTALION WELCH REGIMENT 159 BRIGADE 53RD DIVISION

The first mention of James in the census records is that of 1891 when he was 5 months old and living with his mother Mary Letitia Lunn and a brother at Frogmore Street, Clun, Shropshire. His father was also James and a "clogger" by trade who was lodging with the Price family of farmers on a farm near Brecon. By 1901 the family had increased to include seven children including James junior all of whom had been born in Clun. James senior was now a "clog blockmaker". The 1911 census shows James Griffith Lunn living at 8, Brynsaddler, Pontyclun. He was a single man and a colliery hewer by trade. Various members of the Lunn family were recorded in electoral registers living at 8, Cowbridge Road, Brynsadler until at least 1950.

James enlisted in Pontypridd and entered the war in the Balkans on 9th August 1915. He was killed in action only two months later aged 24 on 21st October 1915 at Suvla Bay, Gallipoli and was buried at Lala Baba Cemetery, Turkey grave reference 11F5. He was awarded the 1915 Star, Victory and British War Medals.

STOKER (FIRST CLASS) WILLIAM B Mc KENZIE ROYAL NAVY CH/197626 (RFR/B/5574)

It is not clear what the Pontyclun connection is with this naval serviceman. William was born in Hull on 3rd October 1882 and his service details are included in the *Ancestry* website under *Great Britain, Royal Navy Division Casualties of the Great War 1914-194* which is by Jack Marshall.

In 1891 William was shown as a nine year old living in East Hull at 5, Elizabeth Terrace with his widowed mother aged 44 and a housekeeper born in Waltham, Lincoln. He also had a brother and sister. Ten years later in 1901 the family had moved to 17, Joseph Terrace in East Hull and William was a 19 year old single naval seaman living with his mother and sister. He had joined the navy on 21st December 1897 when he was just 15 years old before which he was a mill boy. His "commencement of time" was on 3rd October 1900 and he enrolled in the RFR (Royal Fleet Reserve) on 6th February 1909. Records show his Unit was the Hood Battalion A227&A/61 from 17th September 1914 to his death on 6th May 1915 by which time his rank was Stoker 1st Class. William served on HMS Goliath which was a 2,000 ton ship commissioned in 1900 after being built in Chatham Dockyard. She was sunk off Cape Helles in the Dardanelles on 12th May 1915 by a former German torpedo boat which was in Turkish hands with the loss of nearly 600 sailors. William however had died on 6th May 1915 aged 33 presumably as a result of earlier action which Goliath had been involved in. He was buried in Achi Baba Nullah.

The Royal Navy records show he married Alice Maud (of unknown surname) whose home was 15, Freshney Street, West Marsh, Grimsby and later of 20, Jackson, Street, West Marsh. His widow was issued with a 1914 Star in 1920. He is also commemorated on the Miskin Village Memorial.

LIEUTENANT ARTHUR LEWIS MORGAN 1ST/5TH BATTALION WELCH REGIMENT 159 BRIGADE 53RD DIVISION

Despite a very extensive search of military records very little is known of this serviceman. The original detail on the Pontyclun War Memorial website includes no more than his Regiment, that Arthur died in Egypt on 11th September 1916 (but did not die in action) and that he was buried at Ismalia War Memorial Cemetery, Row A grave 102. The Commonwealth War Grave Commission website describes him as a Second Lieutenant but no casualty records have been

located. The 1901 census records for Pontyclun show an Arthur L Morgan living in Cowbridge Road aged 9 with his parents Gomer and Margarita Morgan who had four other children. It is not certain that this is the Lieutenant's family. No service or medal records have been found.

PRIVATE LLEWELLYN NAPPER 9809 2ND BATTALION SOUTH WALES BORDERERS 87TH BRIGADE 29TH DIVISION

Llewellyn was born in 1889 in Pendoylan or Peterston-Super-Ely. Two years later in 1891 he was with his mother Mary Ann living with his mother's parents, the Leyshon family, in Pendoylan. In 1901, Mary and husband George lived in 19, River Row (now demolished but formerly on the River Ely on the left just below Station Terrace) in Pontyclun. George was from Petterton in Somerset. They had five children including Llewellyn who was the oldest. The Napper family excluding Llewellyn lived in Ty Du, Llanharry at the time of the 1911 census. Llewellyn himself was shown to be in the barracks at the Royal Naval Hospital in Chatham as a Private with the South Wales Borderers. He was thus in the army at least three years before World War I started but came out of it before hostilities started.

Llewellyn enlisted in Cardiff and entered the war in the Asiatic Theatre on 23rd September 1914. He was killed in action aged 26 on 14th May 1915 in Gallipoli at the second Battle of Krithia. His sacrifice is commemorated on the Helles Memorial, Turkey panel 80-84 or 219&220. He was awarded the 1915 Star, Victory and British War Medals.

The 2nd SWB was a traditional professional army Battalion.

SAPPER EDWARD JAMES PARKER 8111 AND 388111-NUMBER 1 SIEGE COMPANY ROYAL ENGINEERS

Edward was born about 1888 in Pencoed and enlisted in Pontypridd. No service records have been located and very little is known of this serviceman beyond the original Pontyclun War Memorial website detail. He was the son of Mr and Mrs J Parker and husband of Mrs A B Harding (nee Parker) of 17, The Beeches, Pencoed.

Edward died of wounds on 29th July 1917 aged 29 in Flanders and was buried at Grevillers British Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France, grave reference V1.C. 14. His casualty record shows he was resident in Llantrisant, Glamorgan. He was awarded the Victory and British War Medals.

SERGEANT GEORGE REES 2126 7TH CYCLING BATTALION WELCH REGIMENT AND 56701 10TH BATTALION WELCH REGIMENT

George was a gardener who was born in St Hilary near Cowbridge in 1892. He and his family lived in Rectory Lodge in that village in 1901 when George was nine years old. His parents were John and Catherine Rees born in Llanmaes and St Hilary respectively. John was a mason and at that time they had four children. Within 10 years George's mother was the postmistress in St Hilary and George a domestic gardener.

George enlisted in Cardiff on 1st September 1915 aged 23 years and five months. He was living at St Hilary Post Office, entered the Cyclist Battalion and was posted on 24th September 1915. He was made up to Lance Corporal in July 1916 and was then attached to the 10th Battalion later that month. He embarked from Southampton for Rouen on 26th July 1917 and was promoted to Corporal less than a year later on 14th May 1917, to acting sergeant on 3rd August 1917 and to sergeant on 17th October 1917. George's service record shows he attended a gas course in March 1917 and a general divisional course the month before. He was on leave in the UK for 10 days in September 1917 and attended another course in January 1918 before rejoining his battalion in the field. At the end of February 1918 he was posted to Number 1 entrenching battalion before a posting to the 13th Welsh Regiment in the field.

He was killed in action on 27th August 1918 in Flanders and was buried at the Guards Cemetery, Les Boeufs, Somme, France grave reference IV N 7. In 1920 when enquiries were made of his family to whom to send the traditional Plaque and Scroll, his parents were still living in St Hilary Post Office and one of his brothers, Willie, was living at 69, Llantrisant Road, Pontyclun. George was awarded the Victory and British War Medals.

STOKER J RICHARDS

With such a common name, tracing this serviceman has been difficult and no person with a direct link to Pontyclun has been found. However, John Evan Richards SS 105594 was a Stoker First Class and was born in Cardiff in 1889 and might be the serviceman shown on the War Memorial in Pontyclun. In 1891 he lived in Carpenter's Arms Court, Working Street, Cardiff with his grandmother Janet Thomas and his parents Daniel and Mary and in 1911 was at the Royal Naval Barracks, Devonport aged 21. His Service Record shows he began his naval service in 1907 aged about 18 and died on 17 August 1917. It appears he was aboard HMS Orcoma of the 10th Cruiser Squadron when it stopped the Swedish ship SS Jarl which was carrying wood pulp. An armed guard including John Richards was put aboard her and was heading for Stornoway for examination. Unfortunately it was sunk by

the German submarine U22 some 130 miles south west of the Faroe Islands. His name appears on the Plymouth Naval Memorial.

PRIVATE WILLIAM GEORGE ROBBINS 9389 2ND BATTALION WELCH REGIMENT

A service record for this serviceman is not available and the medal roll for the war gives William's address as 1, Coronation Street, Pontymister, Risca, Monmouthshire. His service number was shown as 6389 on the original Pontyclun War Memorial website but it is given as 9389 both on the Medal Rolls and the casualty record. In 1901 William lived with his family at 19, Tyn y cae Place, Ystradyfodwg; he was aged 15 and his occupation was given as "helps coal hewer". His parents William and Esther were born in Bristol and Merthyr respectively and they had at least four other children in addition to William who was their eldest child. According to the original Pontyclun War Memorial website William was born in Porth but the 1901 census records his birth as being in Merthyr although it is not clear whether this is Merthyr Tydfil, Merthyr Vale or any other Merthyr. William and his family were living at 34, Loftus Terrace in 1911.

He enlisted in Cardiff and entered the war at an early stage on 13th August 1914. Only five weeks later he was killed in action aged about 28 on 20th September 1914 in Flanders. His life is commemorated on the La Ferte-sous-Jouarre Memorial, Seine et Marne, France. William was awarded the 1914 Star, Victory and British War Medals. This soldier may have been in service at an earlier date and was therefore 'called to the colours' as a reservist.

SIGNALLER WILLIAM CECIL RUSSELL; SERVICE NUMBER WALES/Z/2812 ROYAL NAVAL VOLUNTEER RESERVE

The Brynteg School (formerly Bridgend Grammar School) Debt of Honour Register says of William "Signaller Cecil Russell was a member of the RNR when he was killed in May 1917 at the age of 25. His ship, a trawler HMS Ina Williams hit a mine off Bull Light close to the naval base of Berehaven, near Cork in Ireland ... memorial at Plymouth." In the 1901 census William was a six year old living near the Windsor Hotel in Pontyclun with his parents Mary Ann, born in Haverfordwest, and Albert Russell born in Yeovil, Somerset. They were sharing a house with John and Dinah Taylor. Albert was described as a son in law of John Taylor and was a railway carrier.

No service record has been found for William but the Commonwealth War Graves Commission website states he was 22 when killed and mentions panel 25 for his commemoration on the Plymouth Memorial. A later address for his parents was shown as "Summerhill", Pontyclun.

A website showing Royal Navy vessels lost or damaged says the trawler Ina Williams was Admiralty Trawler 337/1913 was hired on "4/15", was a 1-12 pounder under Sub Lieutenant Nettleingham. It saw action in June 1915 off Cork and engaged a submarine. It is not clear if William was on board. In August 1915 a Distinguished Service Cross was awarded to Sub Lt Charles Thomas Nettleingham who had been promoted to Lieutenant. In the London Gazette on 27th June 1917 (6379) he was mentioned in dispatches.

The Royal Navy casualty lists for the war states that on Wednesday 30th May 1917 Ina William (sic) a hired trawler/minesweeper was mined and sunk off south west Ireland with the loss of 12 crew including W C Russell. It is not clear which medals he was awarded.

PRIVATE GEORGE BRAMWELL RUSTELL G/1117 2ND BATTALION ROYAL SUSSEX REGIMENT 2ND BRIGADE 1ST DIVISION

The census for Brynsadler in 1891 shows James and Martha Russell (sic) with two children living at an unknown address. They were from Gloucestershire and Cheshire respectively. Ten years later they were at 1, Llanharry Road, Brynsadler when George was four. He was shown as born in Llantrisant which probably means Brynsadler. His parents later lived at 34, Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun.

George enlisted in Cowbridge and entered the war on 4th January 1915 in France. He was killed in action aged 22 on 4th October 1918 in the Battle of the Beurevoir Line and was buried at the Berthacourt Communal Cemetery, Aisne, Pontru, France grave reference A4. He was awarded the 1915 Star, Victory and British War Medals.

LIEUTENANT FRANCIS SUMSION 14703 "C" CORPS 11(5) BATTALION ROYAL WELCH FUSILIERS 3RD BATTALION WELCH REGIMENT AND ROYAL AIR FORCE 62ND SQUADRON

There is a service record available for this serviceman who enlisted under the name Frank and was recorded as having the surname Sumison. Frank's parents, Daniel and Sarah, were shown in the 1891 census to be in New Mill (present day Miskin near Pontyclun) with their four children about three years before Frank was born. Daniel was a quarryman from Bradford upon Avon. Frank was seven by 1901 living with his family and still in New Mill. Frank and his family were living at 10, Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun in April 1911 at census time when he was an 18 year old student teacher.

He joined up in Wrexham on 2nd September 1914 as an unmarried 21 year old school teacher as shown in an unusually detailed service record. The events in the next four years or so of Frank's life are shown briefly below and have been added to by the Royal Air Force Museum to whom I am grateful.

RWF posted as Private 14th September 1914. Promoted Corporal same day. Appointed acting Sergeant 23rd June 1915. Promoted Sergeant same day. Entered war in France 5th September 1915 by sailing in the ship "Folkestone" to Marseilles. Admitted to Field Ambulance Station infield 7th September 1916 as "sick". To hospital next day. Discharged to Depot 28th September 1916. To regional Battery 9th October 1916. Accepted for admission to be an Officer Cadet 11th February 1917 with a view to appointment to a temporary commission. Embarked for England to go to Cadet School on the "Salonica" 8th March 1917. Posted as a Cadet 7th June 1917. Discharged from RWF as a sergeant on 25th September 1917 having been granted a commission in 3rd Battalion Welch Regiment. Total service engagement at this time was 3 years 24 days.

Sometime after September 1917 Frank became a pilot in The RAF. On 4th November 1918, and only 7 days before the armistice was signed, Frank was piloting a Bristol F2B fighter with Captain W G Walford at about 8.50 am south west of Mons on an escort/offensive patrol. Leutnant H Lange of Jagdstaffel 26 (a single seat fight squadron) claimed he was in combat with an aircraft over Vieux Rengts at 9.15 am that morning. Frank's aircraft was seen going down with a broken wing. The casualty card (C 55917) noted the pilot as missing and that a body had been found a few days later and that it was buried North of Erquennes. A note of 28th June 1920 indicated a burial with Captain Walford in Blaugies Communal Cemetery, south west of Mons. The grave is located near the North West corner. Many bodies were retrieved and buried at a central war graves site. Just after the war there were teams of ex-British soldiers scouring the battle-fields for bodies.

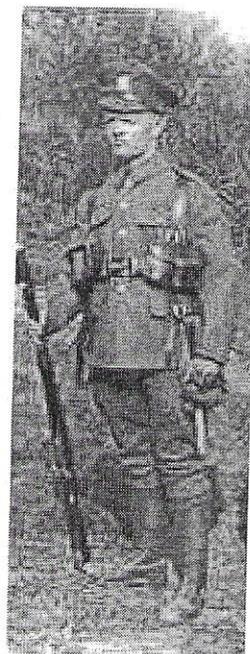
Frank's next of kin is shown in the records as Mrs D Sumston, his wife, of 6, Cerdin Avenue, Pontyclun. He was awarded the 1915 Star, Victory and British War Medals. His loss is acknowledged in the former Pontypridd Grammar School.

PRIVATE JOSEPH THOMAS 202277 10TH (1ST RHONDDA) BATTALION WELCH REGIMENT 114TH BRIGADE 38TH (WELSH) DIVISION

I am grateful to John David of Miskin who has added to the information on this serviceman who is part of John's family. Joseph (known in his family as Joe) was born in 1894 in Ystradowen as the middle son of Edwin and Mary Ann Thomas. He had five brothers and sisters. He was first recorded in census records in 1901 when he lived in Tyn Tranch Farm, Ystradowen. In 1911 Joe was a single 17 year old living in Brynsadler and working as a labourer and cow boy on a farm.

Joe enlisted in Cowbridge according to the original Pontyclun War Memorial website but his casualty form names Pontypridd as the place. The family moved to 1 Llanharry Road, Brynsadler which was one of the houses belonging to the Talygarn Estate. Edwin worked there as a porter after a long life working as an agricultural labourer and gardener in the Ystradowen area.

In 1917 an offensive was mounted to divert German attention away from a weakened French front further south. The initial attempt to dislodge the Germans from the Messines Ridge was a complete success but the main assault which began at the end of July became a dogged struggle against determined opposition and deteriorating weather. Joseph was killed on 31st July 1917 when 24 years of age. His life is commemorated on the Menin Gate Memorial panel 37 according to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission but panel 17 according to the website of the Pontyclun War Memorial. He is also remembered on the gravestone of his parents in the Penuel Churchyard in Llanhari. Joseph was awarded the British War medal and the Victory Medal.



PRIVATE GEORGE HENRY TRASK 18983 10TH (RHONDDA) BATTALION WELCH REGIMENT 114TH BRIGADE 38TH (WELSH) DIVISION

No service record has been found for this serviceman. The original Pontyclun War Memorial website showed the service number as 18963 but what official records have been seen show George's number to have been 18983. George was born in Llanishen (or Pontypridd as shown in the 1911 census), Cardiff in 1892 and enlisted in Llantrisant. He lived in Rhiwsaeson in 1911 working as a labourer in the colliery and entered the war in France on 2nd December 1915. He died of wounds on 9th March 1916 in France and is buried in the Guards Cemetery at Windy Corner, Cuinch plot 3, row M, grave 3. His life is also commemorated on the Miskin Village Memorial. George was awarded the 1915 Star, Victory and British War Medals.

CORPORAL WILLIAM JOHN TUCKER 1277 GLAMORGAN YEOMANRY, 28603 SOUTH WALES BORDERERS AND 33004 8TH BATTALION BORDER REGIMENT 75TH BRIGADE 25TH DIVISION

William was born (according to the 1901 census) in Llantrisant in 1895 the son of Kentley and Mary Tucker of Victoria Terrace, Pontyclun. Kentley was a General Haulier who had been born in Bradwell Hill, Devon and Mary in Pentrych. In 1911 the family were at 5, Palalwyf Avenue, Pontyclun when William was a 16 year old general haulier perhaps with his father Kentley.

William enlisted in Cowbridge and died of wounds in France on 14th July 1917. He was buried at Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, Belgium grave reference XV1 B 13A. The casualty record shows him as John William Tucker and the Commonwealth War Graves Commission records him as a corporal although the original Pontyclun War Memorial website records his rank as acting corporal. He was awarded the Victory and British War Medals.

RIFLEMAN ELIAS WAREHAM 88943 1ST/5TH BATTALION KING'S (LIVERPOOL REGIMENT) 165TH BRIGADE 55TH DIVISION

The 1901 census for Brynsadler includes Elias aged just two living with his parents John and Margaret Wareham. Elias had an older sister, all were born in Llantrisant and each spoke Welsh and English. The family was eventually at 4, Bryn Terrace, Brynsadler where Elias was shown as a 12 year old in 1911.

Elias enlisted in Pontypridd and died on 3rd May 1918 aged only 19 in France. He was involved in the Battle of Hazebrouck and the defence of Givenchy. He is commemorated on the Loos Memorial panel 27-30 and a memorial plaque, in Welsh, was erected in the Tabernacle Congregational Chapel (recently converted into an office) in Pontyclun. Elias was awarded the Victory and British War Medals.

SERGEANT SAMUEL JAMES WATKINS 23877 2ND BATTALION WELCH REGIMENT 3RD BRIGADE 1ST DIVISION

The 1901 census for Ystradyfodwg has a Samuel J Watkins aged 21 and a "tailor at home" living with parents John and Sarah Watkins who were shown as born in Hereford and Aberillery respectively. Samuel had a younger brother William. The 1911 census for 158 Partridge Road, Llwynypia shows this serviceman as James and a 30 year old tailor who was born in Blackwood.

No service record has been located for this serviceman but he enlisted in Cardiff and entered the war in France on 4th December 1915. He was killed in action on 20th July 1918 aged 38 whilst occupying trenches in the Vermelles-Loos sector during a quiet period. Samuel was buried in the Cambrian Military Cemetery grave reference P 20 and was awarded the 1915 Star, Victory and British War Medals.

PRIVATE HENRY CHARLES WATTS 16376 10TH (1ST RHONDDA) BATTALION WELCH REGIMENT 114TH BRIGADE 38TH (WELSH) DIVISION

Henry was shown as a 5 year old at 172, Cathays Terrace, Cardiff in the 1891 census living with his family of mother Emma, father Henry and a host of brothers and sisters most of whom like Henry junior were born in Cardiff. Henry senior was a Tramway Superintendent who had been born in Monksilver, Somerset. Mother Emma was born in Glastonbury. The family moved before 1901 to 115, Donald Street, Cardiff. At that time Henry senior was a "collector and salesman of sewing machines" and his wife a dressmaker. Henry junior was now 15 and his occupation shown in the census as "cycle shop". In April 1911 the family had moved to Lanelay Road, Llantrisant at which time Henry junior was a "general labourer below ground" presumably in a coal mine and his father a steward of a club. Henry junior was shown to be a married man aged 25 but the census detail is unclear as to who his wife was. Living at the same address was Winifred Allen Watts aged 20 but shown as "single". A child of 1 year is also shown named Phyllis Doreen Watts who could have been Henry and Winifred's child but this is not certain. Perhaps these details could have been made clearer if a service record had been available.

Henry enlisted in Tonyrefail and entered the war on 2nd December 1915 in France. He was killed on 12th January 1916 aged 29 during a quiet training period after his recent arrival in France and was buried at Rue de Bacquerot Number 1 Military Cemetery, Laventie, France, grave reference 11 E 12. He was awarded the 1915 Star, Victory and British War Medals. There was a conflict here - presumably he was killed in training not in action?

PRIVATE DAVID JAMES WEBSTER 14634 11TH BATTALION ROYAL WELCH FUSILIERS

David appears to have been born in Cefn Cribwr near Bridgend although some census records show his birth place to have been Laleston near Bridgend. In 1881 when less than a year old he lived in Laleston at Llangewydd Road with his parents Robert and Phoebe as well as two sisters and a brother. The family was in Cefn Road, Laleston in 1891 by which time David had three brothers and two sisters. At this time Robert was a coal miner as was a brother also named Robert. In 1901 the home was at 39, Cowbridge Road, Brynsadler and David was now 20 years of age. The 1911 census shows David's position as a married man living with his wife Elizabeth and two children at 2, Banwell Street, Morriston,

Swansea. He was then a tin plater in the local mill. His mother meanwhile was living at 2, Bryn Terrace, Brynsadler as Phoebe Hopkins having presumably remarried but then having been widowed.

David enlisted in Wrexham and entered the war in France on 5th September 1915 only to be killed in Salonika in the Balkans. His death was recorded on the Pontyclun War Memorial website as being 19th September 1918 but the Medal Roll shows the date of death as 19th September 1916 some two years earlier when he was aged 35. He was buried in the Salonika (Lembet Road) Military Cemetery grave reference 434. David was awarded the 1915 Star, Victory and British War Medals.

COMPANY SERGEANT MAJOR ILLTYD WILLIAMS MM S 4568 13TH BATTALION THE PRINCE CONSORT'S OWN RIFLE BRIGADE 11TH BRIGADE 37TH DIVISION

A Company Sergeant Major is the senior non commissioned officer of a company in the armies of commonwealth countries responsible for standards and discipline. In combat his prime responsibility is the supply of ammunition to the company and he would also oversee the distribution of other supplies as well as evacuating the wounded and collecting prisoners of war.

The Military Medal, which Illtyd won, was instituted by Royal Warrant on 25th March 1916 to be awarded "for acts of gallantry and devotion to duty performed by non commissioned officers and men of our army in the field".

Unfortunately, the actual citation for Illtyd has not survived as for UK forces the archives were destroyed during the London blitz in 1940. For the 1914-18 war only about 115,000 were awarded among the millions of servicemen who took part. Illtyd was also awarded the 1915 Star, Victory and British War Medals.

The first mention of Illtyd in the census records was in 1891 at Lanelay Cottage when he was 4 years of age having been born in Pontyclun. He was one of the youngest of at least eleven children to Richard and Margaret Williams who were born in Lantrisant and Pontyclun respectively. Richard was a "letter carrier" by trade. They lived in Tyla Garw in 1901 "on the road between Ty Du Farm and the Boar's Head". Richard was now called a postman and Illtyd was a messenger for the Post Office as was his sister Maud and older brother David. The 1911 census showed Illtyd still in Tyla Garw with his elderly parents and some siblings. He was a single man and a postman.

Illtyd subsequently lived in 23, Bute Street, Treherbert with his wife Elizabeth and he enlisted in Pentre. Having entered the war in France on 30th July 1915 he was killed in action at the Battle of Ancre, better known as the Battle of the Somme, on 13th November 1916 aged 30. The Battle was called off seven days later. It had lasted four and a half months and the line had moved, in places, about six miles. He was attached to the 63rd Battalion in an action south of Engelbelmer for an attack in the Beaucourt area (Redoubt Alley). The weather was absolutely terrible in this area at the time. Illtyd was buried in the Ancre British Cemetery, Beaumont-Hemel grave reference V11 C12.

PRIVATE ALBERT THOMAS WILLMINGTON 3/7411 DEVONSHIRE REGIMENT. Albert was born in 1886 in Somerset to William and Alice Willmington who were both born in that county. In 1891, he lived in Mortock, Somerset and was the oldest of four children. Father William was an insurance agent. Within 10 years, something had brought the family to Brynsadler where they lived in High Street. Father William was now an agricultural labourer and Albert a 15 year old coal hewer. In 1911 Albert was in 7, High Street, Brynsadler and was single aged 25 and an iron ore miner under the name of Willmington. Albert enlisted on 11 September 1914 in Bridgend aged 28 and had previously served in the 3rd Welsh Militia. He married Ellen Newman in Llantrisant Church in December 1915. His Service Record shows periods of sickness and Albert was discharged as being medically unfit on 12 July 1916. His Pension Record notes he died on 7th October 1918. Albert was awarded the 1914 Star, British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

PRIVATE WILLIAM ARTHUR WITHERS 44163 15TH BATTALION WELCH REGIMENT 114TH BRIGADE 38TH DIVISION

William was aged four when he appeared in the 1901 census living "near the Bute Mines" in Llantrisant; this was probably in or near Mwyndy. His parents were William and Annie Withers who had a daughter Lucy as well. The family were living in Bute Cottages, Mwyndy in 1911.

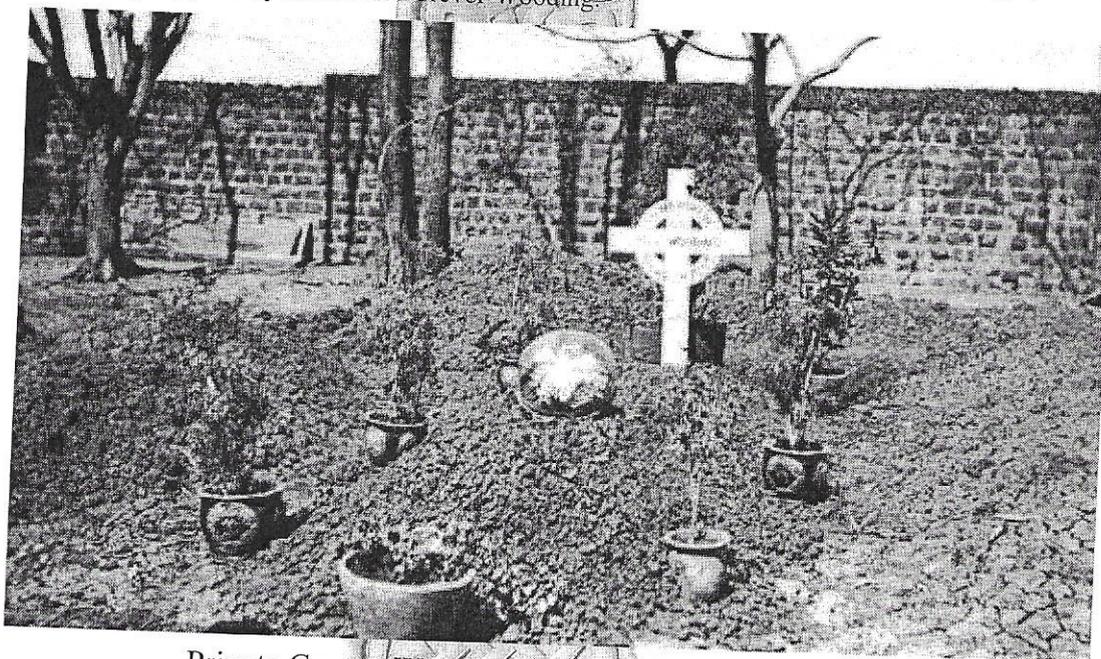
William junior enlisted in Cardiff and died of wounds on 20th September 1918 aged 22. He was buried at Thilloy Road Cemetery, Beaulencourt, Pas de Calais, France grave reference A31. He was awarded the Victory and British War Medals.

PRIVATE GEORGE WOODING 61761 8TH BATTALION WELCH REGIMENT

According to the army service record for George he was born in Brecon. The 1901 census showed he lived in "Old Gabalfa", Llandaff, Cardiff with Alfred Dale his step father and with his mother Elizabeth. His mother was from Radnor and his step father from Shropshire. George had an older sister and a younger brother. The family were living in Penygawsi, Llantrisant ten years later. George was a 21 year old "coal miner hewer" and his birthplace was given as Llanfrynach, Brecon.

The service record shows George was 26 when he enlisted in Pontypridd in 1916 when he lived in Mwyndy Terrace, Mwyndy. His mother Elizabeth Dale was given as nearest relative and her address at that time was School House, Llanishen, Cardiff. George gave his occupation as an underground haulier at Coed Ely Colliery.

George was posted to the 3rd Battalion (F Company) on 18th July 1917 and was stationed in India. His sickness record shows he was hospitalized in Poona in October 1918 suffering from influenza and pneumonia. The original website for Pontyclun War Memorial stated George was killed in action on 13th August 1918 in Mesopotamia but his casualty record shows his death date as 13th October 1918. His sacrifice is commemorated on the Kirkee 1914-18 Memorial in Poona, India on face 6 as well as on the Miskin Village Memorial. He was awarded the British War Medal but curiously there is no mention in the medal rolls of a Victory Medal which must surely have been awarded. I have a photograph of George's grave in Poona kindly supplied by his relative Trevor Wooding.



Private George Wooding's grave at Poona

PRIVATE ALBERT H YEOMANS 14814 1ST BATTALION ROYAL WELCH FUSILIERS 22ND BRIGADE 7TH DIVISION

Albert was born in 1895 in St Marks, Gloucester. Four years earlier his parents William and Agnes lived in the Ducis Arms, Ladysmith Street, St Mary de Crypt in Gloucester. William was a 27 year old publican. By 1901 the Yeomans family were living in the Blandy Hotel in Gilfach Goch where William was the manager. Albert was 6 years old and had a younger brother and sister. Ten years later in 1911 the Oldeastle Inn at 90, Nolton Street, Bridgend was the home of the family by which time Albert was a 16 year old "assisting in the business" of his father William who was publican there.

Albert enlisted in Wrexham and entered the war in France on 11th January 1915 aged 20. He was killed in action on 16th May 1915 at the Battle of Festubert where the battalion had captured nearly a mile of ground only to fall back because of lack of support on the flanks. due to the high water table at the site of this battle trenches could not be excavated and bulwarks of stone, wood and sandbags were used to protect the men. Albert's life is commemorated on the Le Touret Memorial panels 13 and 14. He was awarded the 1915 Star, Victory and British War Medals.

THE MEMORIALS

THE ARRAS MEMORIAL There are 3 cemeteries and two memorials in Arras in the Pas de Calais, France. The main memorial recognizes the names of 35,000 men from the United Kingdom, South Africa and New Zealand who have no known grave and who died in the actions between Spring 1916 and 7th August 1918. It was designed by Edwin Lutyens.

ROCQUINEY-EQUANCOURT BRITISH MILITARY CEMETERY This is one of three cemeteries in Manancourt, Somme, France. It was used from 1917 to March 1918 mainly by the 21st and 48th Casualty Clearing Stations and to a small degree by the Germans. Some burials were added later to bring the total to 2022.

UNDERHILL FARM CEMETERY This is located in Comines-Warnerton, Hainaut in Belgium. Located about 8 miles south of Ieper (Ypres). Underhill Farm and Red Lodge were names given to two buildings on the edge of Ploegsteert Wood and which were used as dressing stations. There are 190 Commonwealth casualties buried here, all of which are identified from 1917 and 1918.

THE JERUSALEM MEMORIAL This is part of the Jerusalem War Cemetery and lies about 3 miles north of the city in Israel. There are 2514 Commonwealth servicemen buried in the cemetery and 3,000 commemorated who have no known grave.

BOUZINCOURT CEMETERY There are three cemeteries in Bouzincourt, Somme, France. Two are communal and the third is the Ridge Cemetery in Albert. Bouzincourt was a field ambulance station for about a year to February 1917 and the communal burial area was used for periods in 1916 and 1918. The extension was used again from March to September 1918 mainly for the 38th (Welsh) Division and contains 589 burials and commemorations for the First World War.

TYNE COT MEMORIAL AND CEMETERY Both of these lie in Zonnebeke, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. The memorial is one of four memorials to the missing in Belgian Flanders which cover the area known as the Ypres salient. The memorial commemorates 35,000 servicemen who have no known grave. In terms of burials, Tyne Cot is the largest Commonwealth War Cemetery with nearly 12,000 burials. There are four pill-boxes in the cemetery.

YPRES (MENIN GATE) MEMORIAL This is in Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Each night at 8pm the traffic is stopped at the Menin Gate while members of the fire brigade sound the Last Post in the roadway under the memorial's arches. The memorial bears the names of more than 54,000 officers and men whose graves are not known.

CHATBY MEMORIAL is situated on the eastern side of Alexandria in Egypt and lies within the Chatby War Memorial Cemetery. It commemorates nearly 1,000 Commonwealth servicemen who have no known grave but the sea.

KARASOULI MILITARY CEMETERY is near the town of Polikastro which lies some 56 kilometres from Thessaloniki in Greece. It was begun in 1916 for the use of casualty clearing stations from the Dorian front and has 1421 burials from the First World War.

KANTARA WAR MEMORIAL CEMETERY is one of three memorials and cemeteries in Kantara which is on the eastern side of the Suez Canal, 160 kilometres south east of Cairo, Egypt. It contains 1562 graves from the First World War and 110 from the Second World War.

LE TOURET MEMORIAL is situated in the Pas de Calais, France. The memorial in Le Touret Military Cemetery is one of those erected by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission to record the names of officers and men who fell in the early part of the First World War and whose graves are not known. Over 13,000 names are listed.

BROOKWOOD MILITARY CEMETERY can be found in Surrey, some 30 miles from London. It was opened in 1917 for the burial of men and women of the Commonwealth and Americans who died in the London district, many of them from battle wounds.

GROVE TOWN CEMETERY, Meaulte, Somme, France. It catered for the dead of the Somme battlefields and contains 1395 graves. There was a large field hospital near to a main rail transport control site.

AMARA WAR CEMETERY This is in present day Iraq on the left bank of the river Tigris. There are 4621 burials from the First World War of which 925 are unidentified.

THE THIEPVAL MEMORIAL IS IN THE Somme in France and commemorates no fewer than 72,000 men of the United Kingdom and South African forces who have no known grave arising from the Battle of the Somme.

POZIERES MEMORIAL This memorial relates to the period of crisis in March and April 1918 when the Allied Fifth Army was driven back by superior numbers over the former Somme battlefields. There are more than 14,000 names recorded here.

ESSEX FARM CEMETERY is situated at Ieper in West-Vlaanderen in Belgium. It was here that Lieutenant-Colonel John McCrae of the Canadian Army Medical Corps wrote the poem "In Flanders Fields" in May 1915. Plot 111 was used for burials of the 38th Welsh Division in the autumn of 1916.

HELLES MEMORIAL 21,000 names appear on this memorial to the dead of Gallipoli, Turkey. There are no fewer than four other memorials nearby.

DOIRAN MILITARY CEMETERY is in the northern part of Greece. It comprises graves almost entirely of the 22nd and 26th Divisions and 1338 from the Commonwealth in total of which nearly 450 are unidentified.

ARTILLERY WOOD CEMETERY is located in West-Vlaanderen, Ieper, Belgium. At the end of July 1917, the battle of Picken Ridge took place and the Guards captured Artillery Wood. They began the cemetery when the battle was over and further dead were brought in from nearby to bring the total burials to 1307 from the First World War.

BROMPTON CEMETERY is located in London, next door to Chelsea Football Club.

ROYAL IRISH RIFLES GRAVEYARD This is in the Pas de Calais, France near the village of Laventie. There are a number of small cemeteries in the area and one was used by the Royal Irish Rifles from 1914 : there are more than 800 graves.

LALA BABA CEMETERY Lala Baba is a low hill near Suvla Bay, Gallipoli, Turkey. The cemetery was formed by the concentration of seven graveyards plus numerous scattered graves in the area.

ACHI BABA NULLAH is situated on the Helles peninsula in Turkey. "Nullah" is an old Indian Army word meaning shallow gully.

ISMAILIA WAR MEMORIAL CEMETERY is on the west bank of the Suez Canal in Egypt. The cemetery was started in 1915 and comprises war and non war graves.

GREVILLERS BRITISH CEMETERY, Pas de Calais, France. More than 2000 Commonwealth servicemen are buried in the village of Grevillers which was occupied, lost and then won again during the First World War.

LES BOEUFs (GUARDS) CEMETERY is near Albert, France.

LA FERTE-sous-JOURRE MEMORIAL, SEINE et MARNE, FRANCE. Nearly 4,000 men of the British Expeditionary Force are buried here about 66 kilometres east of Paris.

PLYMOUTH MEMORIAL More than 25,000 ranks and ratings of the Royal Navy and Navies of the Dominions were lost or buried at sea. In 1920, three memorials were established at Chatham, Plymouth and Portsmouth to record their names.

BERTHAUCOURT COMMUNAL CEMETERY, PONTRU, AISNE, FRANCE Pontru was taken on the 24th September 1918 before the Battle of the Canal du Nord. There are more than 70 1914-18 war casualties commemorated on this site mainly from the 1st Northampton's and 2nd Royal Sussex.

BLAUGIES COMMUNAL CEMETERY is near Mons, Belgium and contains five Commonwealth burials all of which date from November 1918.

QUINCHY GUARDS CEMETERY, WINDY CORNER, PAS DE CALAIS, FRANCE. A little west of the crossroads known to soldiers as "Windy Corner" was a house which was used as battalion headquarters and a dressing station. The cemetery grew up beside this house and now contains the remains of nearly 3,500 war dead many of whom are unidentified.

LIJSSENTHOEK MILITARY CEMETERY, POPERINGE, WEST-VLAANDEREN, BELGIUM contains nearly 10,000 First World War dead and is situated near the natural point for clearing stations being on the main communication line but far enough away from the extreme range of German guns.

LOOS MEMORIAL This contains the names of over 20,000 officers and men who have no known grave.

CAMBRIN MILITARY CEMETERY is about 24 kilometres north of Arras in the Pas de Calais in France; 816 identified casualties are buried here where brigade headquarters used to be.

RUE DE BACQUEROT NO.1 MILITARY CEMETERY, LAVENTIE, FRANCE contains 637 Commonwealth burials as well as seven German graves.

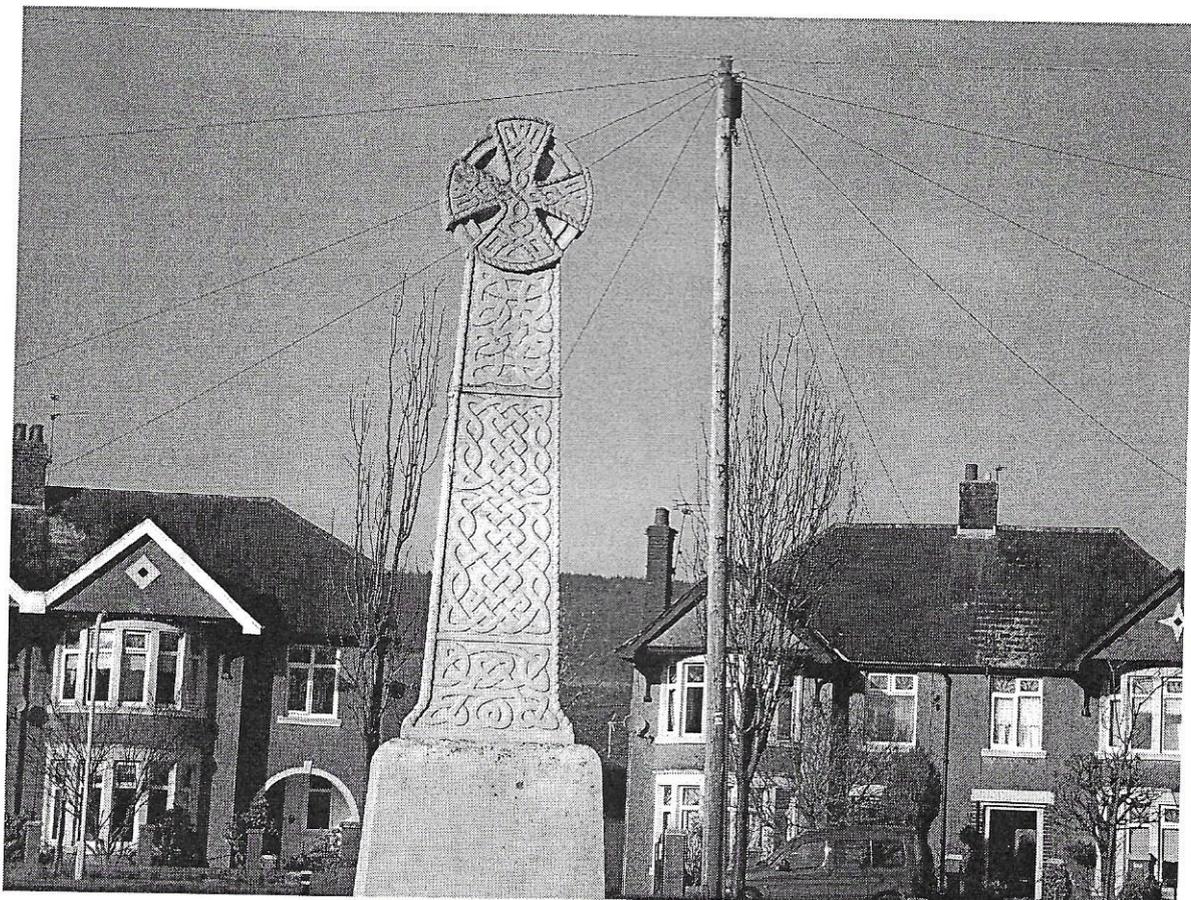
SALONIKA (LEMBET ROAD) MILITARY CEMETERY is on the outskirts of Thessalonica and has nearly 1,700 graves.

ANCRE BRITISH CEMETERY, BEAUMONT-HAMEL, SOMME, FRANCE has 2,540 Commonwealth casualties buried or commemorated there. Many of the dead were killed on just three dates of 1st July, 3rd September and 13th November 1916.

THILLOY ROAD CEMETERY, BEAULENCOURT, PAS DE CALAIS, FRANCE was begun by the 53rd Field Ambulance in September 1918 and contains 240 Commonwealth graves; some German soldiers are also buried there.

KIRKEE WAR CEMETERY was created for victims of the Second World War and within it stands the 1914-1918 memorials to 1,800 servicemen who died mainly in India.

Compiled by Edgeley Thomas who can be contacted on edgeley.thomas@homecall.co.uk
December 2011



The Society acknowledges a generous grant of £200 from the Community Council which has made the re-issue of this amended account of the War Memorial possible.

PONTYCLUN WAR MEMORIAL WORLD WAR 1

NURSE G MOSELEY

This note is an addition to my account of 2012 from which this person was unfortunately omitted.

My first problem in identifying this person was that it was not clear if the person was male or female and whether or not he/she served overseas or in the UK where special hospitals were set up to care for the injured servicepersons.

I have now identified a Gladys Mary Moseley who was born in Mold but for whom I can find no link with Pontyclun despite an extensive search of census, 1939 Register and other records. Family connections have been found to various parts of South Wales including Gladys herself living at 42, Dunraven Street, Tonypany in May 1918.

Gladys appears to have been born in Mold, Flintshire about 1884 as she is recorded in the 1891 census for Llantarnum [Page 51] at the Moon Inn where she is noted as being a visitor aged 7. George Moseley was the Innkeeper and was likely related to Gladys. She is next seen in the 1901 census at 237, Neath Road, Briton Ferry with her widowed father David Moseley who was aged 47. In 1911, Gladys Mary Moseley was a sick nurse, aged 26, and single at the Brynford, Flintshire Workhouse.

The Territorial Force Nursing Service [see National Archives W 399/13454] was set up in 1908 and established a number of hospitals to take injured service persons. The Service record of Gladys shows she joined in February 1915 on a salary of £45 per annum and received her last pay on 31st March 1918 at which time she was medically unfit having had 6 months at home ;she was 50% disabled having suffered from pneumonia or something similar. Gladys had worked at the First Western General Hospital in Liverpool which had about 4,000 beds for patients and achieved the title of Staff Nurse. Curiously, her Service record in 1918, when she was being assessed for a gratuity on leaving the service ,shows she was asked if she was married and she said she was not. Marriage records show a Gladys Mary Moseley married Harold Wild on 21st October 1915 at the Parish church in Cheadle. This is confirmed by the war Service Record of the same Harold Wild; the address given was in Stockport. A child, Joseph, was born to them in March 1916 and other children followed.

In June 1920, the Principal Matron wrote that Gladys was not entitled to the King's Certificate of service as she had not served abroad. She had earlier been awarded a gratuity of £17;5s;7d.

A Gladys Wild died in December 1938 aged 53; the death was registered in Birkenhead, Cheshire.

Similar to other names on the War Memorial I have been able to find no direct link of this person to Pontyclun. Unlike most service personnel whose names appear on the memorial, Gladys survived the war.

Edgeley Thomas

January 2021

