

*Cylchlythyr Cymdeithas Cyn-Ddisgyblion Ysgol Ramadeg y  
Bechgyn, Aberhonddu*

*Rhifyn Coffa'r Rhyfel Byd Cyntaf, Medi 2014*

*Brecon Grammar School Old Boys' Association Newsletter*

*WW1 Memorial Edition, September 2014*

This special edition of the newsletter is to mark the anniversary of the start of the first World War in which 37 Old Boys of Brecon Grammar School lost their lives. It contains short summaries of all 37 Old Boys. They were compiled by Steve Morris as part of a larger Brecon-wide project about the war. It is the product of his own extensive research of various archives, as well as the results of research by Glyn Powell and Steve Roderick.

**Memorial Service at Brecon High School**

Each Armistice Day (11th November) a special service is held at Brecon High School to commemorate those former pupils who lost their lives in the two World Wars and other conflicts, and Old Boys are invited to attend. A small regular group attends but this year it is hoped that there will be a fuller attendance in view of the significance of the occasion. The presence of descendants and family connections of the 37 Old Boys recorded on the School Roll of Honour would be greatly appreciated. After the service guests are offered refreshments and the opportunity to meet senior pupils. **If you would like to attend this year's service please inform secretary Tom Protheroe (14, Rookery Drive, Nantwich, CW5 7DD; Tel: 01270 623525, Email: [t.protheroe@talk21.com](mailto:t.protheroe@talk21.com)) so that sufficient seating can be reserved in the Hall.** Attendees should plan to arrive at the school by 10.15am.

The summaries follow on the next pages. To assist in locating individuals an index is shown on page 2.

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

**“Ar fachlud haul ac yn y bore  
Cofiwn ni nhw”**

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### **Private Alfred Gordon Quarrell**

Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment) 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion Service No. 10969

Killed in action in France on August 12<sup>th</sup>, 1918, aged 22 years

Buried at Moriancourt British Cemetery No. 2, Somme, France

Alfred was born in Brecon in 1896 and after his mother, Ada, died in 1899 he lived with his father (also Alfred), one year old brother Gerald Mortimer and his Aunt Sarah. His father remarried in



1903 to Mary Margaret Probert and in 1911 was living in 36 High Street with brother Gerald and two more brothers, William James (7) and Charles Robert (4).

He was educated at Brecon County School and Colston School Bristol and was learning his father's business of florist and nurseryman when he joined the Queen's Regiment in Easter 1915 and went to France on August 19<sup>th</sup>, 1915. He was wounded by a bullet at Loos in October of that year but recovered and returned to France in March 1916. He died two years later after a piece of shell entered just below his heart.

Gordon was awarded the Allied Victoria Medal, the British War Medal and the 1914-15 Star. His brother Gerald also served but returned home safely.

### **Private Charles William Henry Winstone**

Border Regiment 8th Battalion Service No. 295310

Died on August 16<sup>th</sup>, 1918, aged 19

Buried at Vendresse British Cemetery, France



Charles was born in Brecon in 1899, and lived with his parents Percy and Jessie at 24, The Struet. His father was a tailor. By 1911 the family had moved to 5 St Johns Road. Charles attended Brecon County School and was a member of the Brecon Church Lads Brigade and later went to work for Coppage and sons (Ironmongers). He enlisted in Brecon in 1917, originally with the Cheshire Regiment (47935), then the Manchester Regiment (74689) and finally the Border regiment (29521).

He was initially listed as missing on May 27<sup>th</sup>, 1918, but in August his father, then living at 32 The Struet, was informed that Charles was a prisoner of war in Germany and doing quite well. Unfortunately whilst nearly all the other Brecon boys who were prisoners of war in Germany returned home safely, Charles died of dysentery whilst in the hands of the enemy

**Company Quartermaster Sergeant William Burt Elston**

Kings' Shropshire Light Infantry 10th Battalion, Service No. 230006  
Died of Wounds in Alexandria on November 6th, 1917, aged 33 years.  
Buried at Beersheba War Cemetery, Palestine.



William was born in 1885 in Birmingham, but by 1891 he was living with his family at 45 High Street, Brecon. His parents were butchers. William's father died in 1900 and by 1901 his mother was listed as a Butcher and Shopkeeper.

William was educated at Brecon County School and went on to work in the family firm being shown as a butcher in 1911. He was a sidesman at St Mary's church and also, took part in amateur theatrical performances in aid of local charities.

On the outbreak of war he served with the Yeomanry, later transferring to the 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Kings Shropshire Light Infantry, becoming a Company Quartermaster Sergeant (CQMS). In early 1916 he went with his regiment to Egypt, and later to Palestine, where he was wounded.

**Private Francis Alfred Ismay Musk**

Coldstream Guards 2nd Battalion Service No. 19747  
Killed in action in France on August 27th, 1918, aged 20 years.  
Buried at the Croiselles British Cemetery in France



Francis was born in Brecon in 1898, the only son of Richard William and Agnes Mary, who had married in Kent in 1897. His father was a professor and teacher of music at both the Brecon County School and Christ College.

The family lived in No 6, Bowen Terrace in Brecon in 1901 and 1911, although his parents had moved to The Cottage, Llanfaes, Brecon by the time of Francis' death.

Francis was educated at the County School and Christ College and worked as a bank clerk in Bath before going in to the army

He joined the Coldstream Guards at 18 and went through a good deal of fighting on the Western Front. The 2nd Coldstream took part in the "Battle of the Scarpe", and when attacking through the wood they were held up by heavy machine gunfire. The enemy counter attacked from the South and forced a withdrawal. There was apparently fierce hand-to-hand fighting and total casualties among the 2nd Coldstream for 27th August were 310 men killed or wounded. Francis was initially posted as missing but subsequently confirmed as killed in St Leger Wood in August 1918.

### **Second Lieutenant Ivor G Davies**

Duke of Edinburgh's (Wiltshire Regiment) 2nd Battalion  
Killed in action in France on August 8th, 1918, aged 24 years  
Buried at Le Vertanney British Cemetery, Hinges, France



Ivor was born in 1895 to David John Davies and Magdalen, (nee Moses). He was an only child and was brought up in the Green Dragon Temperance Hotel, High Street, Brecon. His parents married in 1894 when David was 35 and his wife was 39. David was born in Llywel to a farming family. Magdalen was born in Maescar, Defynock, where her father was a Tiler. By the age of 16 (1871) she is working as a General Servant in Brecon, for the governor of the County Gaol. Later she is in London as a Head Nurse / Domestic to a Solicitor's family and by 1891 has returned to Brecon and is listed as a Coffee Tavern Proprietor at 24 High Street, later to be the Green Dragon. Ivor went to the County School in Brecon and was later a clerk in the Hay branch of Barclays bank.

He joined the Duke of Edinburgh's (Wiltshire Regiment) and was posted to France where he was killed by a machine gun bullet as they were following up the retreating enemy.

### **Lance Corporal Harry Skeel Duncan Dempster**

King's Royal Rifle Corps. 7th Battalion Service No. R/6328  
Died of wounds in France on August 3rd, 1915, aged 27 years  
Buried at Etaples Military Cemetery, France



Harry was born in Herefordshire in 1888, but the family soon moved to Brecon and in 1901 they were living at the Kennels in the Watton, where his father was Huntsman. The family later moved to Wiston in Pembrokeshire. Harry attended both Brecon County School and Christ College.

By the time of the 1911 census Harry is working in printing, and boarding, in Carmarthen.

He enlisted in October 1914 and went to France in May 1915. The 7th King's Royal Rifles (KRR) were involved in fighting in the Ypres area and Harry was probably wounded in the German attack of 30th/31st July, 1915 when the 7th KRR position was caught from the front, back and flank, forcing the battalion to withdraw from its forward position. There is a memorial cross to the KRR in this vicinity.

Harry had left the trenches when he thought a comrade was hit and wounded, and in going back for him was himself critically wounded.

**Sergeant John Davies**

Royal Engineers, Anti-Gas Est. Service No. 279219  
Died in Nottingham on November 27th, 1918, aged 34 years  
Buried at Wrexham Cemetery

John Davies was born in Wrexham in 1883, where his father was a Blacksmith in a local iron foundry. He was schooled in Wrexham and gained a degree in Maths from Bangor in 1905. Having previously taught in Dorset, he was appointed to teach Maths at Brecon County Intermediate School for Boys in September 1908, where he was also the Sports Master. John spent 8 years in Brecon.

He was called up in March 1916 and because of his scientific training he was UK based and attached to the Royal Engineers and employed on the testing of poisonous gas, which aggravated a chest condition from which he suffered.

Following the Armistice he was struck down by the influenza epidemic (Spanish Flu) from which his damaged lungs failed to respond. He died in Nottingham in November 1918.

John appeared in the school photographs of 1914 and is credited with introducing advanced mathematics to the Curriculum.

**Corporal John Vaughan Edwards**

Royal Gloucestershire Hussars Service No. 235066  
Killed in Action in Palestine on November 12th, 1917, aged 28 years  
Buried at Somniel and listed on the Jerusalem Memorial

John (aka Jack) was born in Cwmdru in 1889 and grew up on the family farm, Middle Gaer. He was educated at the County School, Brecon and worked on the farm with his father until his death in 1903, and then with his brothers.

He enlisted in Crickhowell early in the war and went through Gallipoli campaign and later went with the regiment to Egypt in 1915. The local paper reported him as well in September 1915 from a postcard received, and in 1916 recorded him as being home on leave. The Regiment moved on to Palestine on 1917. Jack was killed in action when he was shot in the neck during a charge and died instantly. He is commemorated on the Tretower memorial.

Jack's eldest brother William served with the Australian Forces and was seriously wounded in action, and was hospitalised in London after a life saving operation.

**Private David Stanley Davies (Adm. No 297)**

Otago Infantry Regiment (NZEF} Service No. 8/4444  
Killed in Action in France on February 12th, 1917, aged 26 years  
Buried at Ration Farm Military Cemetery, La Chapelle-S'Armentiere, France.

David Stanley Davies was born in 1890, to William, and Margaret, the daughter of an Innkeeper. William had worked with his own father Thomas at Bailyhelig Farm before marriage.



Afterwards William lived with his wife at the Bell Inn, Brecon. William continued to work on the farm but the family are living at the Bell Inn in 1891. By 1901, they are still at the Bell, but now William is Innkeeper, and Stanley (11) is with his parents and 5 siblings.

Stanley went to Brecon County School and later to Aberystwyth (Agricultural Studies), boarding there in 1911. His parents moved to Bailyhelig with William as farmer.

Stanley emigrated to New Zealand in about 1914, and joined the army in 1915. He was a private in the First Otago Battalion, New Zealand Forces. He died in action in France in February, 1917 when he was killed instantaneously by a shell.

The family were living at 16, The Watton, Brecon then, and Stanley is commemorated at St Mary's Church, and Kensington Baptist Church.

**Second Lieutenant Daniel William Cyril Delahaye**

Royal Engineers Special Coy "N"  
Died of wounds in France on May 23rd, 1918, aged 24 years  
Buried at Varennes Military Cemetery, France

Cyril was born in Ystradgynlais in 1894 the eldest son of the local stationmaster, Herbert and his wife Annie. He attended Brecon County school but left during 1907/08 to attend the recently opened Ystradgynlais County School. He spent five years there before gaining admission to Cardiff University. Cyril enlisted with several other students in September 1915 and was very soon serving in France.

He initially joined the Royal Fusiliers, Public School Battalion, but soon transferred to the Royal Engineers, with whom he served in France for three years, first as Corporal, then as Lieutenant, being commissioned in September 1917. Cyril was reported as being hospitalised after the Battle of Loos in December 1915 suffering with Influenza and general breakdown but was soon back on duty. He died of wounds received in May 1918

### **Private Walter Jones**

Wellington Regiment. N.Z.E.F. Service No. 10/396  
Died on May 8th, 1915, aged 22 years.  
Buried at Twelve Tree Copse Cemetery, Helles, Gallipoli Peninsula, Turkey

Walter was born in Crickhowell in 1893 the son of John and Caroline Jones. In 1901 the family are living at No. 2 Penydre, Crickhowell where Walter's father is shown as a Gardener (Domestic). Walter attended Brecon County school during the 1900's but by 1911 John is farming at Gelli Ffanw, Llanbedr and the 17 year old Walter is working on the farm.

Walter later emigrated to New Zealand and subsequently enlisted in the New Zealand armed forces. He was part of the New Zealand Expeditionary Force that took part in the Gallipoli campaign. The Twelve Tree Copse cemetery commemorates N.Z. soldiers who died in the second battle of Krithia.

### **Rifleman William John Jenkins**

Monmouthshire Regiment. 1st Battalion. Service No. 2375  
Killed in Action on May 8th, 1915, aged 32 years.  
Commemorated on the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial

William was born in Brecon in 1883, the eldest son of Ex police Sergeant John Jenkins and his wife Martha Mary. The family were living at 16 Free Street in 1881, with John listed as a travelling agent and Martha as a milliner.



By 1891 the family had moved to the New Market Inn at 27, Free Street, Brecon, where William's father is now listed as Innkeeper. William went to the Brecon County School and later became a clerk for the County Council and also worked as a clerk for the Brecon Gas Company. By 1911 he had left the family home and was boarding at Tredegar where he worked as a Railway Clerk, and later was employed by Tredegar Iron and Coal at Blackwood. Having enlisted at Blackwood, William went to France in February 1915; as well as a rifleman, William was also a telephone operator. Originally listed as missing he was later confirmed as killed at the first Battle of Ypres.



### **Private Edmund Fitton**

Canadian Scottish Regiment 16<sup>th</sup> Battalion  
Died of Wounds in the UK on July 29<sup>th</sup>, 1916, aged 25 years  
Buried at Bwlch (Penuel) Presbyterian Chapel

Edmund was born in Bwlch in 1891 to William and Elizabeth. The family lived at Pleasant View, Bwlch and William was a labourer on a local estate. Edmund attended the Brecon County School for five years. He became a clerk with Lloyd's bank, but had to leave due to effects from prolonged standing. He went to Canada and worked in a bank there until enlisting in the Canadian Army and going to the Western Front in 1915. He came home on leave to Bwlch in December 1915 but was subsequently wounded in Ypres in June 1916 when he was hit in both legs and arms by a German Bomb. Edmund was moved to the Sheffield General Hospital but unfortunately died there.

He is commemorated on the Cathedine war Memorial.

### **Private Cyril Isaac**

South Wales Borderers, 1st Brecknock Battalion. Service No. 2316  
Killed in Action on July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1915, aged 18 years.  
Buried near Aden; Commemorated Heliopolis (Aden) Memorial

Cyril was the second son of Major and Mrs. William Thomas Isaac of Castle Farm, Brecon and was born in 1896. He was educated at the County School, Brecon and after leaving worked in a Surveyor's office in Newport.



His father was well known for his work with Volunteers and Territorials, as well as Brecon Show secretary. and was gazetted Major in April, 1915, having been Quartermaster before.

Cyril joined the Territorials at the outbreak of war. and went with the Battalion to Aden in 1915. He was one of 13 "Brecknocks" to die on this day, all from "heat apoplexy" during the course of a forced march, battle and retreat. These men, together with other colleagues from the Battalion, were commemorated by a brass tablet placed in the Garrison Church, in Aden.

**Sergeant Basil Gwynne Griffiths**

Royal Field Artillery, 56th Battery. Service No.41567  
Killed in Action on November 4th, 1914, aged 22 years.  
Commemorated on the Menin gate Memorial, Ypres, Belgium

Basil was born in Aldershot in Hampshire in 1892, to Isaac and Sarah. His father was a Sergeant Major (and DCM) in the Welsh Regiment and the family moved a number of times, including being in Cairo in 1896, Clapham in 1898 and in Brecon by 1900, living in the Barracks in the Watton. Basil attended Mount Street and the County Schools in Brecon and both provided references for him when he joined the Royal Field Artillery in 1906 at the age of 14 years, signing on for 12 years with the colours, enlisting in Brecon.

He is shown at Woolwich Barracks in 1911, whilst the rest of his family have moved to Cardiff.

Initially a trumpeter, he was promoted to Bombardier and then Corporal in 1913 and Sergeant in 1914.

Basil went to France with the British Expeditionary Force in August 1914

**Quarter Master Sergeant Edward Walter Greenway**

Royal Army Medical Corps, Territorial Force. Service No.372013  
Died of Influenza and Pneumonia in France on September 23rd, 1918, aged 28 years  
Buried at Mazargues Military Cemetery, Marseilles

Edward was born in Brecon in 1890 when the family are living at 45a free Street, Brecon. Walter, his father, is a Sergeant Instructor with the South Wales Borderers, whilst his mother, Annie works as a Dressmaker.

By 1901 Annie and the children are living with Walter's grandfather in 41 Free Street, whilst Walter is now a patient in The Royal Victoria Hospital, Hampshire, still a Sergeant in the SWB.

In 1911 Walter is living with his mother and brother in Cardiff where he is working as an Insurance Clerk. Walter enlists in Cardiff in May 1912 into the Royal army Medical Corps, Territorial Force as a Private but has successive promotions to his final rank (QMS). Walter marries and has two sons and this family is based in Cardiff at the time of his death.

**Private William Henry Ernest Pettifor**

Cheshire Regiment 15<sup>th</sup> Battalion. Service No. 67638  
Died of wounds, June 28th 1918, aged 19 years  
Buried at Bagneux Cemetery, France

Bill was born in Durham in 1899, the son of Richard Edward (Gardener) and Catherine Pettifor, but by 1901 the family had moved to Treberfydd, Bwlch where Richard was a Gardener to the Raikes family. He attended Brecon County School between 1910 and 1916 and on leaving became an Inland Revenue officer.

In 1917 Bill was conscripted, and the family were by then living in 3 Castle Street, Brecon and his father was now a Seedsman, Fruiterer and Florist. Bill was severely wounded by a gunshot wound to the thigh on June 12th, 1918 and could not be moved from the casualty clearing station

**2nd Lieutenant Thomas Mozart Jones**

Royal Garrison Artillery, 26th Siege Battery.

Died July 6th, 1918, aged 36 years

Buried at Saron Congregational Chapel

Mozart was born in 1882 to William and Elizabeth Jones of Blaenau, Cwmwysg. One of a large family of 14 children. He was pupil of Brecon County Intermediate School during which time he boarded in Brecon. On leaving school he became a cashier at the United Counties Bank, Brecon (now Barclays), and later in Bristol, where he was in 1915. Whilst working in Brecon he lived at 96, The Struet and was a member of Brecon Golf Club and Sports Club.

Mozart joined the army in 1916, initially as a Gunner with the RGA. He went to France in February 1917 and was commissioned in August of that year. He died unexpectedly after showing signs of recovery from wounds suffered in his first action at Cambrai, France on March 21st, 1918. He died in the UK.

**Lieutenant Ernest David Jones**

Royal Air Force, 52nd Squadron

Killed in action on April 3rd, 1918, aged 19 years

Commemorated on the Arras Memorial, France

Ernie was born in 1899, the second son of Benjamin & Matilda Jones of George Street, Brecon.



Benjamin was a foreman printer. By 1901 the family are living at 38 Orchard Street, Llanfaes, Brecon, and by 1911 they are at the same address but mother is now a widow and a grocer, as her mother had been previously, at this address. Both Ernest and his brother Ivor attended Mount Street and Brecon County School. After school Ernie was first a clerk with Barclays at Newport, and then Cardiff.

Ernie joined the Royal Flying Corps and later the RAF and whilst piloting his aircraft on a bombing sortie over the front lines he was shot down by the Red Baron. In von Richtofen's own combat report there is a full account of the air action in which he commends the bravery of his adversary. Initially listed as missing, Ernie was later reported as killed.

**Private Cyril John (Jack) Powell**

London Regiment 15<sup>th</sup> Battalion. PWO Civil Service Rifles. Service No. 535008  
Died of wounds, November 30th 1917, aged 19 years  
Commemorated on the Cambrai Memorial, France

Jack was born in 1899 the third son of Evan and Mary Anne Powell who farmed at Pant y Bailey, Bwlch for many years. He attended Llangynidr National School before winning an entrance scholarship to Brecon County School between 1910 and 1916, where he was an excellent sportsman, and then joined the Inland Revenue branch of the Civil Service.

Jack enlisted in Brecon in July 1916, when he was just 18 years old and initially posted to the Army Reserve, but was mobilised in February 1917 and posted to the Prince of Wales' Own Civil Service Rifles and soon found himself in France.

**Private Albert John Price**

Royal Army Medical Corps. 55th Field Ambulance Service No 368420  
Died of wounds. October 22nd, 1917, aged 33 years  
Interred in Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, Flanders

Bert was born in Llanfaes, Brecon in 1884, to William and Anna Price. The family lived at 6, Orchard Street, Llanfaes and William was a Life Assurance salesman. His mother Anna died in early 1901 and the family moved to 14, Orchard Street. Bert attended the Brecon County School and later worked as a Clothier's Shop assistant in Tredegar, living at 102 Commercial Street, Tredegar in 1911. Bert married Mary Jane Burch on 21st December, 1915 in Swansea, and it is there that he enlisted. At the time of his death, Mary Ann is living in Albion House, Rhymney.

Bert initially joined the Welsh Ambulance Service as a Territorial but agreed to serve outside the United Kingdom if required. He went to France in June 1917 and died at No. 3 Canadian Clearing Station, Remy Siding, Flanders of wounds received in the field whilst serving as an Ambulance man.

**Merchant Seaman John Reginald Redvers Price**

H.M.T.S. Glendine  
Died of illness. August 4th, 1918, aged 17 years  
Buried in St Peter's Churchyard, Glasbury

Reggie was born in early 1901, the youngest son of George and Elizabeth Price of Velindre. George was a Tailor and Innkeeper, running the Three Horse Shoes Inn at Velindre. Reggie attended Velindre school before entering Brecon County Intermediate School in September 1913, continuing there until December 1915 when he left to become a mechanic on the railway.

Reggie joined the Merchant Navy and was on board the SS Glendine on its return voyage from Cuba. The ship berthed at the port of London, Gravesend and Reggie is reported as having died on board an hour after arrival from typhoid. He had been looking forward to going home for his first leave but had contracted an illness, probably in Cuba. His father and brother attended the inquest where this verdict was returned

### **Trooper John Eric Rowland Price**

Wellington Mounted Rifles, N.Z.E.F. Service No 11/843A  
Killed in Action at Gallipoli. August 27th, 1915, aged 28 years  
Commemorated Hill 60 (New Zealand) Memorial

John was born in 1887 the second son of John Henry and Jane Price who farmed at Abercraai, Traeanglas. He emigrated to New Zealand around 1909 to farm, taking some pedigree Hereford cattle and sheep-dogs with him. John was followed by his younger brother Ivor, but he had a bad accident with a horse and was unfit for military service.

John joined the Wellington Mounted Rifles at the outbreak of war, providing his own horse. The memorial where John is commemorated is named after a low hillock that was attacked on August 21st, 1915 by a combined force of Australians, New Zealanders, British and Gurkhas and the fighting lasted for eight days. The cemetery lay among the old trenches.

John is also commemorated on the family gravestone at Traeanglas Church and on the Roll of Honour of the Brecon Boys County Grammar School.

### **Private Rhys Thomas Prytherch**

13th Labour Coy., The King's Liverpool Regiment. Service No. 70532  
Died Easter Monday March 23rd, 1917. aged 34 years  
Buried at Longuenesse (St Omer) Souviner Cemetery, France



Rhys Thomas Prytherch was born in 1883, son of William and Sarah Prytherch, who were farmers. Rhys is shown as born at "y Rhiw", Llandeilo'r fan, but by 1891 the family are at Middle Penllannfel, Llangorse. Rhys was one of the first intake of pupils to Brecon county intermediate School in 1896. In 1901 he is lodging in Cardiff whilst studying and achieved an Honours degree in Welsh and a later goes to Carmarthen Theological College gaining his B.D. By 1911 he is lodging in Swansea where he is a Missioner.

Rhys volunteered for the Army in 1914 but was refused due to a bad hip (TB). He was offered a chaplaincy but refused as he wanted to work alongside private soldiers. Eventually he was allowed to join the Welsh Regiment and later transferred to the Pioneer Battalion. He became ill whilst on active service and died in France.

**Second Lieutenant Thomas Walter Prosser**

Gloucester Regiment, 1st/6th Bn. attached to Machine Gun Corps 38Bn  
Died of Wounds. October 9th, 1918, aged 22 years  
Buried in Beaulencourt British Cemetery, Ligny-Thillooy, France

Walter was born in 1895, the son of William and Sarah Prosser who farmed at Cefnbrynich, Brecon. He studied at Brecon County Intermediate School between 1907 and 1911 and left to take up farming.

Walter joined the army in September 1914, initially joining the Montgomery Yeomanry and serving on the home front and in Egypt until 1916. He then transferred to the Royal Welsh Fusiliers and went to France with the 15th Battalion in December 1916 serving as a Corporal. He was gazetted a Second Lieutenant in November 1917 and served in Italy with the 1/6th Gloucester Regiment until 1918 when he returned home for transfer to the Machine Gun Corps. Returning to France in August 1918 he was seriously wounded in October of that year

**Private Daniel Spencer Rees**

Royal Sussex regiment, 2nd Battalion. Service No. G/28005.  
Killed in Action September 18th, 1918. aged 27 years  
Commemorated Vis-En-Artois Memorial, France

Daniel was born in 1891 to Thomas and Mary Rees who were Grocers in Ship Street, Brecon. The family were in No 17 Ship St at this time although by 1901 had moved to No 8, still as Grocers. By 1911 the family were living at 33 The Watton where Thomas was now listed as a Corn Merchant, although Daniel was boarding in East Dereham, Norfolk whilst working as a Bank Clerk, having previously attended the Brecon County School. The family later moved to Besford in Worcester.

Daniel enlisted in Hastings, initially with the Suffolk Regiment but later transferred to the Royal Sussex. He probably joined early in the war as he is linked with the British expeditionary Force.

**Sergeant William Charles Turner**

Royal Flying Corps, 38th Training Squadron. Service No. 1022.  
Died June 3rd, 1917. aged 26 years  
Buried in Brecon Cemetery

William was born in 1893, the eldest son of Charles and Sarah Jane Turner of the Brecon County Club, where his father was the Steward. He attended Brecon County School between 1911 and 1912. He trained in the motor trade and was for a short while in business in Brecon.

He was accepted in to the RFC and initially posted to Farnborough, but sailed from Newhaven for the front in August. He wrote home in October to tell of his experience in France including having his plane riddled with bullets, and another time having a bullet hole in his fuel tank that he plugged with his finger. He applied to be trained as a pilot late in 1914

William returned to England in Nov 1915 to act as Aero Engineer-Mechanic, and passed at Aero School to get his wings He was qualifying for a First Class Pilot Certificate when accidentally killed while flying at Rendcombe Aerodrome in Cirencester.

**Private Brychan Thomas**

London Regiment, 2nd/20th Battalion. Service No. 7648.  
Killed in Action at High Mametz Wood, October 16th, 1916. aged 32 years  
Buried at Ecoivres Military Cemetery, Mont-St. Eloi, France

Brychan was born in 1884 to Thomas, a plasterer and Elizabeth Mary, of 5 Stone Street, Maescar. He attended Defynnog School before moving on to Brecon County Intermediate school. He served an apprenticeship as a pupil-teacher at Defynnog, before going to Carmarthen Training College to qualify as a teacher. Before the war he taught in Caegarw School, Mountain Ash where he was well known in the area,

Brychan enlisted in March 1916 and went to France in June of that year. His brother Thomas also an ex pupil of Brecon County school, was a Lieutenant in the Royal Garrison artillery winning the Military Cross in 1918.

**Private Cuthbert Gordon Thomas**

Monmouthshire Regiment, Territorial Force. Service No. 229317.  
Killed in Action July 31st, 1917. aged 26 years  
Buried at Duhallow A.D.S. Cemetery, Ypres, France

Cuthbert was born in Merthyr in 1891 to Arthur, a County Court Bailiff, and May Maude, a Headmistress. The family had moved to Llangorse by 1901 and Cuthbert earned a scholarship to Brecon County Intermediate School where he attended for six years (1903-09). He then went on to Carmarthen College where he was boarding in 1911. He qualified as a teacher and began his career as Head Teacher at Felindre school, leaving there to take a post in the Upper Rhymney School in Glamorgan from where he enlisted.

Cuthbert enlisted in Cardiff in January 1916 and was initially posted to a Reserve Battalion but was mobilised in February 1917 and posted to Monmouthshire Regiment(3/1) at a base camp in March and in June was posted to the South Wales Borderers, 11th Battalion in France. He was subsequently killed in action at Pilken Ridge.

**Private Rees Thomas**

King's Own (Royal Lancaster Regiment), 8th Battalion. Service No. 37062.  
Killed in Action August 23rd 1918, aged 19 years  
Commemorated at Vis-En-Artois Memorial, France

Rees was born in 1899 to Mary Davies of Tybach Libanus, but by 1901 he is living with his Grandfather, also Rees Thomas, and family at Bolgoed Maen, Libanus and remained with them through his early years. He attended Tairbull Council School and then Brecon county Intermediate School from 1911 until 1913 when he left to go farming.

He enlisted in the King's Own, 4th of Foot and fell in action as the battalion made a gallant attack on August 23rd. The Colonel conveyed his sympathies to Mrs. Thomas via a letter from the Chaplain and sympathy was also expressed for Mrs. Davies, Pontlloyn with whom Rees stayed prior to joining up.

### **Captain Tom Rees**

Royal Flying Corps, 11th Squadron and Royal Welsh Fusiliers, 14th Bn.

Died September 17th, 1916. Aged 21 years

Buried in Villers-Plouich Communal Cemetery, France

Tom was born in 1895 to Thomas and Alice Rees of Cefnbrynich Farm, Defynnog. Tom attended Defynnog School before going to Brecon County Intermediate School in 1907. He was a Student Teacher in his final year before going to Aberystwyth University in 1913, where he was a member of the Officer Training Corps.



He joined the army in 1914 as a private, and was promoted to Sergeant before being commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Royal Welsh Fusiliers in January, 1915. He went to France in November 1915 and soon after successfully applied to transfer to the Royal Flying Corps. After training he returned to France to join the 11th Squadron at the front.

Tom Rees had the unenviable distinction of being the Red Baron's first aerial "kill" when, as an observer, his aircraft was shot down. Von Richtofen landed his plane alongside the wreck and helped extricate the airmen only for both to be pronounced dead at the crash site.

### **Lieutenant Douglas Gordon Webster (M.C.)**

South Wales Borderers attached to Machine Gun Corps, 21st Bn.

Killed in action September 29th, 1918, aged 26 years

Buried in Tyne Cot Memorial, Belgium

Douglas was born in 1891, the third son of George, an Army Pensioner, and Ellen Webster living at the Barracks. By 1901 the family had moved to 88, The Watton, Brecon. Douglas attended Pendre and Brecon County Schools and later became a Railway Clerk in Brecon and by 1911 he was in Carlisle, whilst the family were now running the Prince of Wales Inn at 91, The Watton. Douglas married Miss Ellen Elizabeth Hutchings in Newport in February 1918.

Douglas was with the local Territorial force before the war and was mobilised with them in August 1914, initially with the Brecknockshire Battalion. South Wales Borderers, as a Corporal in Aden and Mhow in 1915. He later transferred to the East Surrey Regiment as a Second Lieutenant, before volunteering for the Machine Gun Corps, as a Lieutenant. He was awarded the Military cross for Gallantry.



**Private William Francis David Williams (Willie)**

Royal Fusiliers, 22nd Bn (London). Service No. 49820  
Died February 19th, 1917. aged 22 years.  
Commemorated at Varennes Military Cemetery

Willie was born in 1895 to Evan (a Grocer) and Mary, née Price. Following his father's death in about 1899, Willie lived with his mother and Grandfather, William Price, a Cartwright in 13 High Street, Talgarth. By 1911 they are living with Mary's younger sister Sarah, now a Grocer in High Street, Talgarth. Willie went to Talgarth Council School and then attended Brecon County School from 1907 to 1913. On leaving school he became a bank clerk in Abergavenny, where he was living when he enlisted in Brecon.

Willie joined the "Bankers Battalion", the 22nd Battalion, City of London Regiment, Royal Fusiliers. He was wounded in France on February 18th and died the next day in a field hospital.

**Driver Lewis Westcott Smith (Bob) Baker**

Royal Field Artillery, D Bty, 119th Brig., Service No. W2939  
Died June 21st, 1917, aged 22 years.  
Commemorated at Railway Dugouts Burial Ground

"Bob" was born in Hay in 1895, the son of Joseph and Annie Elizabeth Baker who ran a Grocer's shop at the Pavement, Hay on Wye. He was a pupil at Hay council school before being admitted to the Brecon County School where he completed four terms (1908/09) before leaving to take up his father's occupation. However before enlistment he was actually employed as a clerk in the Gurnos Colliery Co., Ystradgynlais.

Bob Baker enlisted in the RFA early in 1915 at Swansea from Ystalyfera, where he was then resident. Initially stationed at Cricieth in June of that year, he was drafted to France in December 1915. He was seriously wounded by shellfire early in the morning of the 21st June and died shortly afterwards.

**Private Charles Davies**

Royal Army Medical Corps. Service No. 26523  
Died on September 5th, 1917, at Camberwell Infirmary, London, aged 25 years  
Buried at Brookwood Cemetery, London

Charles was born in 1892. the eldest son of David, a Coal Seller/Agent and Anne Davies of Tredegar Road, Sennybridge. The family were later at Stockwell House, Sennybridge. He attended Defynnog Endowed School and then Brecon County Intermediary School from 1905 to 1912. He became a Student Teacher in 1911 and taught at Coelbren School in April 1912, but was later noted to have left teaching in favour of "hewing coal", most probably in May 1913.

Charles enlisted in August 1914 and is believed to have served in India before being discharged sick, under King's Regulations in February 1915. The actual reason for discharge is not stated but may be presumed as T.B. as there was a high incidence in the family, and Charles had been hospitalised for a period during the course of his military service.

### **Private David Davies**

Herefordshire Regiment, 1st Bn. Service No. 1342  
Died on November 17th 1915, at Cadoxton, aged 18 years  
Buried at Sion Baptist Church, Sennybridge

David, was a younger brother to Charles Davies, and was born in 1897 the second son of David and Anne Davies of Tredegar Road, Sennybridge, later listed as Stockwell House, Sennybridge. He attended Defynnog School and then Brecon County Intermediary School from 1909 to 1911. He achieved third place in the 1909 entrance examinations, even though his mother had died in March of that year. After school he became a clerk on the Neath and Brecon Railway at Sennybridge.

David's father, also David, remarried in 1911 to Ann Morgan of Cefncoed Uchaf, Ystradgynlais and they moved to Hay in 1912. It appears that young David went with them as by 1913 he is working as a Nurseryman in the King's Acre Nursery in Hereford and living in the town.

David enlisted in June 1913 and is accepted as fit to join the Herefordshire Regiment Territorial Force. He is embodied in the 1st Battalion in August 1914, but discharged as physically unfit for future service. The illness is diagnosed as TB and originated in March 1915, although not as a result of military service.

### **Private David James Jones**

South Wales Borderers, 4th Bn, A Coy. Service No. 26579  
Died of Wounds in Mesopotamia May 2nd, 1917, aged 21 years.  
Commemorated at the Basra Memorial



David was born in 1896 to Llewellyn, a farm labourer, and Annie Jones of Stone Street, Defynnog. He attended Defynnog school and Brecon County School and on leaving in 1911 he became an apprentice Draper with D. Morgan and Lewis of 31 High Street, Brecon, probably lodging with Mr Morgan at 10 Priory Hill, Brecon. He moved on to a post of Assistant Draper in Tredegar in 1914 and was then living at 1, Saron Row, Ebbw Vale until he enlisted at Abertillery.

David initially went to camp in Liverpool and then after some home leave in June 1916 he embarks with the Battalion in July 1916 and by August he is in a rest camp in Kirklee, India, and later in the year in Mesopotamia.