

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM



In memory of those brave men of Cefn Cribwr
who died in the service of their country.

Compiled by Ceri Griffiths

on behalf of

Cefn Cribwr Community Council

on the occasion of the Opening of the new Village War
Memorial which saw its first Act of Remembrance on
Sunday 11th November, 2012

We little thought when he left home

He would no more return.

That he so soon in death would sleep

And leave us all to mourn.

A memorial to Glyn Thomas from Gwyneth, Don and Baby (Carmen) recorded in the Glamorgan Gazette.

Foreword

The Most Rev'd Dr. Barry Morgan, Archbishop of Wales.

We will remember them

In memory of those brave men of Cefn Cribwr who died in the service of their country

This year, 2013, will see the 120th anniversary of the birth near Oswestry of Wilfred Owen, the celebrated War Poet. He died just days before the Armistice was signed in November 1918 and therefore did not live to see his poems published. One cannot help wondering what he would have made of the fact that they have become perhaps the most powerful witness to what he called '*the pity of war*'. He wrote:

'My subject is war and the pity of war; the poetry is in the pity.'

Owen's poetic language and imagery was moulded of course by his experience of battle on the Western Front. In a sense it took decades after the First World War, in fact well beyond World War II, for us to be able to look at war through the lens of Owen's poetry. It was almost as if we needed time to face up to what was being revealed through his poems with their stark brutal images, devoid of propaganda, sentiment, glamour or self pity.

Immediately after the War, veterans who survived came home, but few found it possible to speak and tell of the horrors they had faced. Britain wanted to look forward rather than back into the abyss from which it had emerged.

But, little by little, photographers published their uncensored pictures and film footage, war correspondents and historians were freer with their reports, and most importantly of all, in nearly every community in Britain, memorials to the War Dead were erected, often through public subscription.

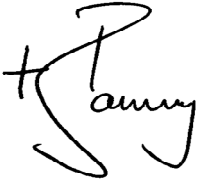
To visit the vast war cemeteries in France, to gaze at the countless names inscribed on the Menin Gate, or those scores of names placed on War Memorials in our major towns and cities is one thing. It is just as moving an experience to see in a local church or village hall, or on the road side in some remote village community, a plaque or a stone, listing the names of those who had travelled far from home, never to return. We stand for a moment and read these names, imagining faces, silently contemplating the nightmare that local families went through, the letter boxes through which the telegrams were pushed with the rest of the morning post. Most families, most communities, experienced the loss of young men, having given their lives with thousands of others, in what was then, and always will be, a catastrophe for humanity. We often hear politicians and religious leaders say that the importance of remembering the sacrifices of war lies in the encouragement it gives to

working for peace. That is surely true. Yet our experience of the world shows only too clearly that humanity seems never to be at peace with itself.

So, if Wilfred Owen believed that painting a picture of war in words can leave us with a sense of pity, surely we can also sense the pity of war by reading the stories of the real people whose destinies were cruelly played out on the battle field. These ordinary sons and fathers, brothers and husbands from places all over Britain, including Cefn Cribwr, were taken into an unimaginable horror of bullets, bombs, gas and even mud, because a significant number of men died by being drowned in the mud of the trenches. Their history can speak to us very powerfully, helping us to recover a sense of our own responsibility in helping to re-attune our attitudes, giving us the desire to reshape our present and thereby build a future for our own families - to make the best of the freedoms we now enjoy.

The idea behind this book is to do just that. It helps to retell the story of each of the men from Cefn Cribwr who died in the First and Second World Wars by giving us the plain facts of the circumstances of each - where they were born, to whom they were married, their family connections, details that root these people into the fabric of the local community – quite literally putting faces to the names. It details where each of these men's names are recorded and the arena of war in which they fell. That will have a powerful impact on those who read it.

Just like the poems that lead us to consider and pity war, these names and faces will do the same thing. And in the pity shown in every generation, we must surely keep ahead of us the vision of humanity, one day, restored and at peace with itself.



Barry Morgan

The Most Rev'd Dr. Barry Morgan
Archbishop of Wales

A MESSAGE FROM CHAIRMAN OF THE CEFN CRIBWR COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Through their families bitter sorrows, Lord most merciful we pray, purify the souls departed in Thy precious blood this day.

In 1982 my family and I moved to Cefn Cribwr. In November of that year I proudly wore my medals to my first Cefn Cribwr Remembrance Service and have attended every one since. Over the years people in the village continued to talk about our memorial bus shelter and its history. We, as Community Councillors, have always respected this point of view, but we knew that eventually we would have to move on and that day has now arrived.

The New War Memorial stands on our beautiful Mynydd Bach Common overlooking the Bristol Channel on one side and our mountains on the other. We hope and pray that one day we can all agree that this was the right choice.

I should like to thank and acknowledge Ground Work Bridgend and Geoff Whittington our Landscape Architect for vision and project management, Naomi Leeke for designing and sculpting the beautiful Celtic Cross which stands at the centre of the new memorial and the management and workers of Afan Landscapes who built the new memorial.

Those who have contributed financially to the project including Bridgend County Borough Council, The Welsh Church Act Fund and Mr. Tony Williams

I should also like to thank Mr. David-Lloyd Jones, Clerk to the Community Council, for his endless work on communications, finance and leadership; Councillor Huw David for his knowledge of local government and communications with our contractors; All our Community Councillors, both past and currently serving for their help, support and encouragement.

And finally Mrs. Ceri Griffiths for the magnificent effort and months of research and hard work on our new book 'We Will Remember Them'.

When they look down on their village of Cefn Cribwr, I hope we have done them proud.

On behalf of Cefn Cribwr Community Council.

Brian Johnson, Chairman, March 2013.



Cefn Cribwr Community Council 2011 -2012

Back Row: Councillors David Evans, Brian Johnson, Christian Howe, Huw David, Christopher Holmes, Ceri Howe

Front Row: Councillor Marsly Grabham, David-Lloyd Jones, Ceri Griffiths, Gareth Stenner, Karen Cable
Clerk to the Council Chairman

INTRODUCTION

This publication was produced to commemorate the creation of the new War Memorial for Cefn Cribwr that has been placed on Mynydd Bach Common.

It was felt that we needed to know more about those brave men who died for their country in two World Wars. Their names had been read out every year since the creation of the first War Memorial, but they were just names to most of the people who attended the Remembrance Services each year. Even more, as the years go by, there will be fewer people who knew anything about the lives and the families of these men.

They deserve to be remembered. They deserve to be known, not just as names on the Memorial, but as people, people who lived in our village, who may have played as boys on the Common, who walked these streets and who dreamed of their future after the War was over; a future that was not to be. We need to keep their memory alive and to ensure those of future generations know who they were.

The information in this booklet is based on what we were able to find out from records and by talking to people who knew them or are descended from them. It was possible to find more out about some than others. Sadly, it was not possible to identify all of them. If anyone reading this booklet knows anything more or finds any inaccuracy, please let us know and we will try to amend it. While every effort has been made to discover as much as possible about those who died, some of the information may not be correct and for this we apologise. It is not always possible to be certain that we have the right people if the names are not unique and there is no mention of Cefn Cribwr on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission website. Wherever possible, further information has been sought in Census Records, ancestry records, local papers and general research on the internet.

We do not know the exact circumstances in which many of them died, although we have tried to put in some detail of the battles they were probably involved in and the conditions under which they were serving.

Four names have been added to the original list of names on the War Memorial.

These four are all listed on the War Graves Commission web site which is the criteria for inclusion.

Others are referred to at the end of this publication.

There may be more brave men from our village who died but whose names are lost.

There were certainly many others who suffered during the Wars and who fought in very difficult campaigns.

We dedicate this booklet to them all – the brave men and women who fought for us all in two World Wars, and to those brave soldiers who served and still serve in the Armed forces in the battles fought since 1945.

The children in Cefn Cribwr Primary School have been involved in this Project. They have been learning about the soldiers who died by talking to their families and from researching through web sites. Thanks go to the Head teacher, Staff and Children for the work they have done and for the interest they have shown.

Thanks also go to all those who have read this document and made amendments, contributions and comments. Many will be referred to at the end of the document but many more will have made contributions through conversations and interactions. We thank you all.

And so the next generation is made aware of past generations, of their sacrifice and the contribution they made to life as we know it in this village.

CEFN CRIBWR WAR MEMORIAL



The former village War Memorial was built out of public subscriptions and the Memorial Tablets and Shelter were unveiled and dedicated on Sunday 30th August, 1953 at 3p.m. The Shelter and Tablets were said to be 'In appreciation of the men of Cefn Cribwr who served in both World Wars and in honoured memory of those who fell in their Country's Service'. The Memorial was unveiled by Colonel W.H.C. Llewellyn J.P. and was dedicated by the Rev. Gwynmor Davies. The hymns 'Oh God Our Help in Ages Past', 'The Lord's My Shepherd' and 'Abide With Me' were sung. There was a scripture reading and a prayer, plus the playing of the Last Post and the laying of Wreaths. The Dedication Service ended with the singing of God Save the Queen.

Whereas on the War Memorial the young men who died were only given their initials, on the Dedication leaflet they were all given their full Christian names except for T.G. Morgan. However, two names which are on the War Memorial are omitted on the leaflet – B. Brown and W. Jenkins.

WORLD WAR I

There was immense pressure on young men to volunteer for service as is shown in the pages of the Glamorgan Gazette. Every week young men were urged to 'do their bit' to 'play the man' to 'go and play the game'. Numerous recruitment rallies were held and it is difficult to believe that any fit, single, young men had not responded to the call to do their duty. A recruiting officer was reported as saying that if they did not come he would fetch them.

It was reported that there had been a good response to the appeals to enlist, but that there were still many eligible young men who did not sufficiently grasp the urgency of the situation. It was also reported that it was the purpose of the Authorities to raise Volunteers to a state of efficiency to qualify them to be thrown into the field at the earliest possible date. So the pressure on these young men was tremendous and many joined up with their friends in the so-called Pals' Regiments. The White Feather was often given to those who for one reason or another had not joined up and Rolls of Honour were published regularly listing those who had volunteered.

Conscription only came into force on the 2nd March, 1916 following the Military Service Act of 1916. From then on, men aged 18-41 were liable to be called up unless they were married or widowed or in a reserved profession.

Many young men from Cefn Cribwr responded to the call of their country. Some returned but some did not.



SEBASTIAN BURTO

Sebastian Burto is commemorated by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission as Sebastian Burton. He was Private 36330 of the 9th Battalion of the Welsh Regiment, who died on 19th July, 1917 aged 30.

He is listed as being the son of Charlotte Tovey (formerly Burton) and the late Sebastian Burton of 164, High Street, Blaina, Monmouthshire. There is no direct reference to Cefn Cribwr, but Neville Granville's book '*Cefn Cribwr, Chronicles of a Village*', has a picture of a Jeff Burto in the Wesley Guild Cefn Cribwr 1910, and in his booklet '*Cefn Wesley 1886-1986*', Neville Granville refers to Sebastian Burto as being one of the young men attending the church who were lost in the War.

Sebastian Burto joined the 9th Battalion of the Welsh Regiment which was formed in Cardiff in September 1914 as part of Kitchener's 2nd New Army. They came under the orders of the 58th Brigade in the 19th (Western) Division and landed in Boulogne in May 1915. The duration of the War was spent on the Western Front. In 1916 they were in action during the Battle of the Somme and in 1917 they were in action in the Battle of Messine Ridge and the 3rd Battle of Ypres.

Sebastian Burto is remembered with honour on the Menin Gate Memorial.

Neville Granville and Nigel Williams, who both live in Cefn Cribwr, have been to the Menin Gate and found Sebastian Burto's name there.

By courtesy of Nigel Williams



Nigel Williams at the Menin Gate

YPRES MENIN GATE MEMORIAL

By courtesy of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



The Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial is in Belgium in the province of West Flanders. It is one of four memorials to the missing in Belgian Flanders which cover the area known as the Ypres Salient. The Salient was formed during the 1st Battle of Ypres in October and November 1914 when a British Expeditionary Force succeeded in securing the town by pushing the German forces back to the Passchendaele Ridge. In the 2nd Battle of Ypres, the Germans released poison gas for the first time, and the effect was to force an Allied withdrawal.

In 1917 an offensive was mounted to dislodge the Germans from the Messines Ridge in the 3rd Battle of Ypres. This was initially successful, but quickly became a long struggle until November when Passchendaele was captured.

Many lives on both sides were lost during these struggles and so the site of the Menin Gate was chosen to commemorate the dead of all United Kingdom casualties before August 16th 1917 and the dead of many Commonwealth nations. It now bears the names of 54,000 officers and men whose graves are

not known. The memorial was designed by Sir Reginald Bloomfield with sculpture by Sir William Dick-Reid. It was unveiled in July 1927.

By courtesy of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



JACK BROWN



From the Glamorgan Gazette archives.

David John Brown was the son of Mr John Brown, Pleasant View, Cefn Cribwr whose death was recorded in the Glamorgan Gazette.

Jack was Private 5705 of the 12th battalion of the Lancashire Fusiliers.

In the 1911 Census, he is recorded as a haulier below ground, living at 4, Pleasant View with his father John - a Colliery Examiner, his mother Mary Ann, and 7 siblings. He had two older brothers, Richard and William, an older sister Louisa, 3 younger brothers, Thomas, Sidney and Bertie, and a younger sister Evelyn. It is reported that his father John was instrumental in starting the English Baptist Church, Calvary in Cefn.

Jack died on the 14th September, 1916 and is remembered on the Doiran Memorial. The Gazette records that he joined the Colours in the very early days of the War on 7th September, 1914 when the first call for men came. He elected to join the famous Lancashire Regiment and went out with his battalion to France and afterwards to Salonika. He was 24 year old when he died.

The 12th Battalion of the Lancashire Fusiliers was one of the Battalions of the New Army formed in August 1914 which came under the orders of the 65th Brigade. They landed at Boulogne on 5th September, 1915 but moved to Salonika arriving on 5th November, 1915.

The Doiran Memorial and Military Cemetery are situated in the north of Greece, close to the old Yugoslav border near the shore of Lake Doiran. The memorial stands on a hill roughly in the centre of the line occupied for 2 years by the Allies in Macedonia close to the western end which was held by the Commonwealth forces. It marks the scene of fierce fighting in 1917 and 1918 which occurred after Jack had died.

From October 1915 to November 1918 the British Salonika Force suffered approximately 2,800 deaths in action. A further 1,400 died of wounds and 2,800 from sickness. (There was a wide malarial river valley at one end and difficult mountain ranges at the other). However, we do not know how Jack died.

The Doiran Memorial serves as the Battle Memorial to the British Salonika Force for which a large amount of money was raised by the officers and men. It is also a commemoration for the 2,000 who died in Macedonia who have no known grave. The Memorial was designed by Sir Robert Lorimer and the sculpture is by Walter Gilbert. It was unveiled by Sir George Macdonagh on 25th September, 1926.

By courtesy of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

THE DOIRAN MEMORIAL



GEORGE JAMES CROCOMBE

From the Glamorgan Gazette archives



George James Crocombe was Private 5687 of the 10th Battalion of the Lancashire Fusiliers who died on 27th June 1916, aged 21. He was the son of Thomas Crocombe of 33, Thomas Street, Garden Village, Gilfach Goch.

George Crocombe was born in Tondy in 1896 and enlisted at Bridgend. The 1911 Census lists the family as Thomas Crocombe, aged 39, a widower whose occupation is described as Pumpman, living with his daughter Ethel Annie aged 17, George James, then 15 – a collier-, Mabel Mary, 11 and Cecelia Gwladys aged 8 at Llantrythyd, Bedford Road, Cefn Cribwr.

There were a number of incidences of confusion about his place of residence, Cefn Cribwr, Kenfig Hill and Laleston are all mentioned. George is sometimes referred to as 'a Kenfig Hill boy', as a group of friends seem to have joined together as pals. This was fairly common at the time.

George Crocombe enlisted in the 10th Battalion Lancashire Fusiliers which was raised in Bury in September, 1914 as part of Kitchener's 2nd New Army. The Battalion joined the 52nd Brigade 17th (Northern Division) which had been selected for Home Defence duties after training. However, this was reversed and the Battalion went to France and landed at Boulogne on 15th July, 1915. In the Spring of 1916 the Battalion was in action at The Bluff South East of Ypres before moving to the Somme.

George was killed in action on 26th May. The Gazette published a letter to his family stating that he was not with any of his Kenfig Hill chums at the time as he was out with the Battalion Bomber. The letter goes on to say that he was a good soldier well-liked by all who knew him. Sergeant Smith offered the deepest sympathy on behalf of the Kenfig Hill boys and the remainder of the company. It is signed from Sergeants, Smith, Edwards and Hitchings, Corporal Reed and Privates J.J. Davies (possibly John James Davies who died a year later), W.J. Jones, A.J. Dyer, G. Harris, W. Howells and T. Almond. The letter concluded by saying that 'these are all Kenfig Hill boys who enlisted at the same time as George and who have been able to keep together'.

George Crocombe is remembered on the Thiepval Memorial in France. This is the memorial to the missing of the Somme and bears the names of 72,000 officers and men from the UK and South Africa up to March 1918 who have no known grave. Over 90% of those died between July and November 1916, following an offensive begun on 1st July. However, George seems to have died immediately before this.

THIEPVAL MEMORIAL

By courtesy of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



The Thiepval memorial was designed by Sir Edward Lutyens and was built between 1928 and 1932.

JOHN JAMES DAVIES

John James Davies was Private 54545, 10th Battalion, Welsh Regiment who died aged 20 on the 12th June, 1917. He was the son of William and Elizabeth Davies of 8, Pleasant View, Cefn Cribwr. John James was born in Cefn Cribwr and is listed in both the 1901 and the 1911 Census .

In 1911 he was living in 8, Pleasant View with his father William aged 45, his mother Elizabeth and their two other children: Annie Maria 19, Mary Catherine 17. John James was then 14 year old. He enlisted at Pontypridd.

John James joined the 10th Battalion of the Welsh Regiment which was raised in October 1914. In December, they moved to Colwyn Bay as part of the 130th Brigade 43rd Division. The battalion went to France in December 1915 and remained there until the end of the War, winning much glory for Wales. In the Spring of 1916 they moved to the River Ancre at the beginning of the Battle of the Somme. Their first real action was in the attack on Mametz Wood when they were engaged in 5 days hard fighting in thick woods flanked by machine guns. Eighty men were lost. They then spent the winter in the trenches before attacking Pickem Ridge on 31st July 1917, during the opening day of the 3rd Battle of Ypres.

John James died of wounds immediately before this last attack and was buried in the Mendinghem Military Cemetery in Belgium.

The cemetery was designed by Sir Reginald Bloomfield and commemorates 2391 Commonwealth burials and 52 German war casualties.

MENDINGHAM MILITARY CEMETERY



By courtesy of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

THOMAS JOHN DAVIES

By courtesy of Mr. Eric Barley



Thomas John Davies was Lance Corporal 5703 of the 10th Battalion Lancashire Fusiliers who died on 12th May 1917 aged 29. He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Barley of Cefn Road, Cefn Cribwr.

This was the same battalion that George Crocombe had served in. After George died in June 1916 the Battalion was involved in the Battle of Arras and the Battle of Delville Wood. In 1917 they moved to Arras and saw action in both the 1st and 2nd Battles of the Scarpe and the capture of Roeux. By late summer when they moved to Flanders and fought in the 1st and 2nd Battles of Passchendaele Thomas had died.

He is buried in the Brown's Copse Cemetery, Roeux near Arras.

BROWN'S COPSE CEMETERY ROEUX

By courtesy of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Roeux was built over a system of caves making capture difficult. It was unsuccessfully attacked by the 9th (Scottish) Division on the 12th April, 1917. On 22nd April, after incessant fighting, the chemical works close to the railway station were taken by the 51st Highland Division and the village was cleared on

14th May. But the chemical works were lost before being retaken again on 16th May.

The cemetery was designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens and contains 2,069 burials and commemorations.

Tom Davies' great nephew, Mr. Eric Barley, who was himself a serving soldier in World War II, lives in Bridgend and attended the first Remembrance Day Service at the New Memorial in Cefn Cribwr on 11th November, 2012 and laid a wreath in honour of his great uncle.

DAVID JOHN EDWARDS

Lance Serjeant 12994 David John Edwards whose birthplace is given as Bridgend although his residence is recorded as Maesteg. He was in the 9th Battalion of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers and was killed in action on 25th September, 1915.

The 1911 Census shows a David and Rosina Edwards living in 1, Pleasant View with four sons, D.J 18, EW 17, Thomas 15 and Glyn 4, and two daughters, Gerty 12 and Rosina 9.

The Gazette reported a D.J. Edwards joining the Royal Welsh Fusiliers on 31st August, 1914.

The 9th Battalion was formed in Wrexham on 9th September 1914 and came under the orders of the 58th Brigade 19th Division. They landed in Boulogne on 19th July 1915. The early days of the Division were difficult as the new volunteers had very few trained Officers and NCOs to command them and no organised billets or equipment. Having crossed the Channel in July, the units initially moved near St. Omer. The Division served on the Western Front for the remainder of the War. They were a supporting/ diversionary unit during the Battle of Loos.

David John Edwards is remembered on the Loos Memorial which forms the sides and back of Dud Corner Cemetery and stands almost on the site of a German strongpoint – the Lens Road Redoubt. 'Dud Corner' is reputed to be so named because of the number of unexploded bombs found in the neighbourhood after the Armistice.

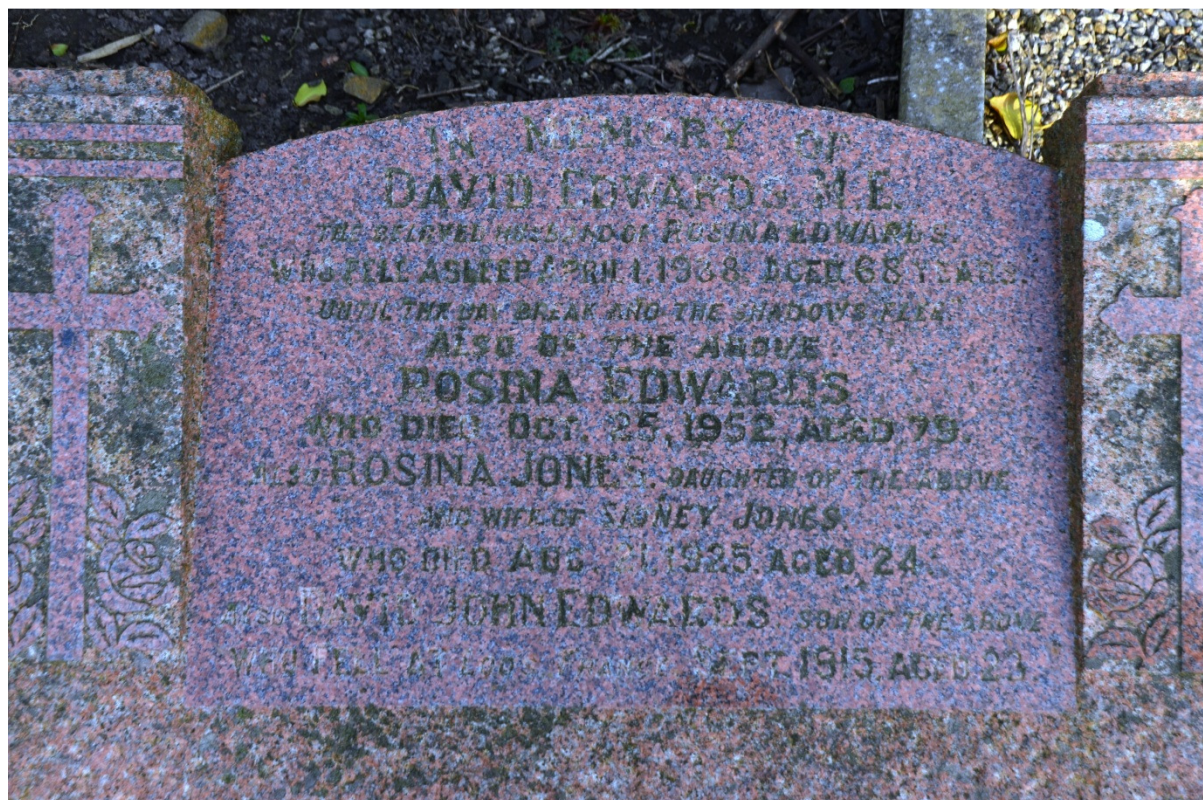
The Loos Memorial

By courtesy of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



The Loos Memorial commemorates over 20,000 officers and men who have no known grave and who fell in the area. It was designed by Sir Herbert Baker with sculpture by Charles Wheeler. It was unveiled by Sir Neville Macready on 4th August, 1930.

David John Edwards is also remembered on his parents' grave in Nebo cemetery.



By kind permission of Nebo Chapel

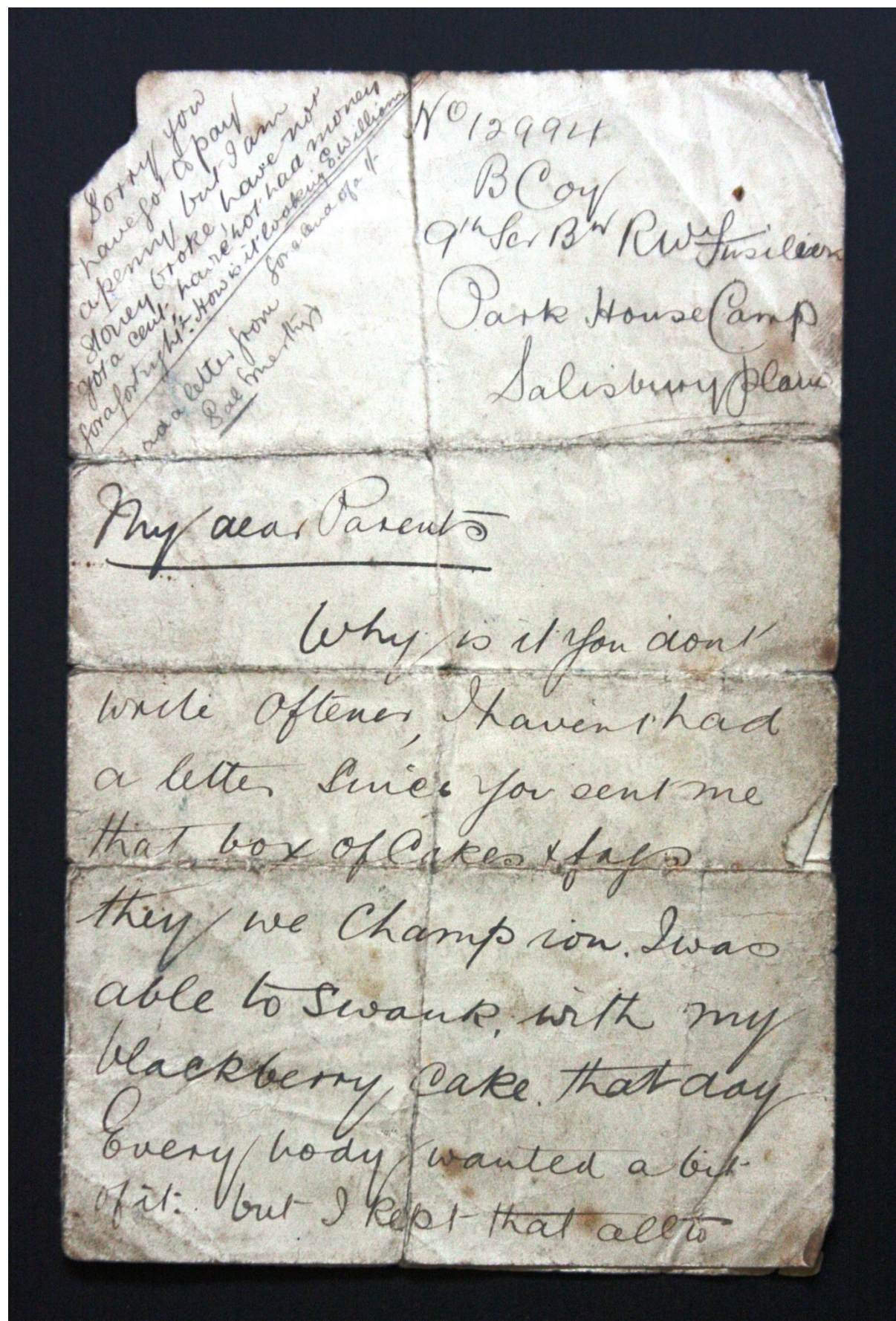
He had a son Glandeu who, sadly, never knew his father.

David John Edwards – Centre front

By courtesy of Lynda Edwards



Lynda Edwards, who lives locally, has a letter sent by David John to his parents in 1914.



Transcript of the letter from David John Edward to his parents, David and Rosina Edwards, from Salisbury Plain C. 1914.

No – 129921

B Coy,
9th Ser Bn RW Fusiliers
Park House Camp
Salisbury Plain

My dear Parents,

Why is it you don't write oftener, I haven't had a letter since you sent me that box of Cakes and fags, they were Champion. I was able to swank with my blackberry cake that day. Everybody wanted a bit of it but I kept that all to myself.

How are you at home all, don't worry about me Mam dear, I am alright am quite happy here and in the pink of condition getting quite fat and my moustache is growing quite thick. Does E. William want to join after the letter I sent him? There is about 30 boys from my company getting their discharge this week absolutely useless, too weak to walk about, it is a pity to see some of them, they will be glad to get home. The nights are very cold but I am alright. I sleep with the Sargent Major and colour Sargent, got plenty of blankets in the company. The King was here last Monday and inspected us, a fine sight. Lord Kitchener is coming next Sunday. There is about 6,000 of our Soldiers gone from here to Swindon, we're going from here in a week or two's time to Swindon (Seaford of Bulford). Will let you know when we are going. We are.....rifle practise, have had my rifle and bayonet. I am going to have my photo taken in them. We have got to go out now in about another half an hours' time for a night march.....and shamfighting from.....to midnight. I have got to go out on this parade as I got a squad of men to take out for outpost duty looking around for the enemy of course it is only sham but it is fine work. I am quite happy with it. I have had orders now to study for my Master Sargent. If I pass that I will have stripes. It is hard work but you got to do it.

Well Dad and Mam I do hope you are happy and healthy. Send more letters. Tell E. William to answer my letter and Glyn.

xxxxxxx Give my best love to my dear brothers and sisters accept same yourself. With heaps of kisses from your aff-Son, D John.

(p.s. on front of letter)

Sorry you got to pay a penny but I am stoney broke, have not got a cent have not had money for a fortnight. How's it looking E. William for a lend of a 1/-? Had a letter from Sali Merthyr.

SIDNEY GEORGE ELEY

The death of Sidney Eley is made even more poignant in that it appears in the edition of the Gazette in which the headlines were full of the fact that the War had ended, which signalled relief for the nation.

Sidney George Eley was Private 94233 of the 16th Battalion Royal Welsh Fusiliers. He was the son of George and Ada May Eley, of 40, New Houses, Cefn Cribwr.

Ancestry records the birth of a Sydney George Eley's birth was recorded at Tiddickstone (Tythegston) Higher and he also is recorded in the 1901 Census as Sydney but after that he is referred to as Sidney. The 1911 Census shows a George and Ada May Eley living in Bedford Road with their children. These were Sidney George 14, Katherine 13, Edward 12, Stephen 11, William 10, Beatrice 9, Gwendoline 8, Arthur and Miriam 1. Sidney is described as 'Collier Lad Fitter'.

Sidney George Eley was formerly Private 60791 of the Monmouthshire Regiment. It was fairly common for men to change regiments at this time.

Sidney joined the 16th Battalion of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers which was raised in December 1914 by public subscription and private patronage. It was part of the 38th (Welsh) Division. The Battalion moved to France in November 1915 and was in action by December. It was on the Western Front throughout the War. It was involved in the capture of Mametz Wood in 1916 during the Battle of the Somme and in the capture of Pickem Ridge on 31st July 1917. It was later involved in the 3rd Battle of Ypres and the Battle of Epehy, September 18th 1918.

By courtesy of the Cefn Cribwr Community Council to whom the family donated the photo.



Sidney died late in the War of wounds after these offensives on 30th October, 1918 aged 22.

In the same edition of the Gazette on November 15th 1918 which heralded the end of the War with great excitement and relief, it was reported that Sid had died. It went on to say that he was the eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. George Eley of Bedford Road Cefn Cribwr who was highly regarded for his bright manly qualities. The report added that he had served for only about 6 months and had been in France for 3 weeks, but that during that time he had taken a full share in the fighting before he laid down his life.

A letter from the Chaplain tells that he was severely wounded in the head and died in hospital. Naturally this cast a gloom over the neighbourhood at a time of much general rejoicing. Much sympathy was extended to his family. He is buried in Awoingt Cemetery.

The village of Awoingt in France was captured on 9/10 October 1918 and the cemetery was begun during the second half of October. Many who were buried there were brought in from casualty clearing stations and hospitals. There are 653 Commonwealth burials and commemorations in the Cemetery and 63 graves of other nationalities, mainly German.

AWOINGT BRITISH CEMETERY

By courtesy of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



JAMES FLOWERS

We understand this to be James Walter Flower, Private 5696, 10th Battalion of the Lancashire Fusiliers, who died on 2nd November, 1915 aged 24.

He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. George Flower. There is no mention of Cefn Cribwr or Kenfig Hill in his details, but it is an unusual name and there are few other possibilities on the War Graves lists.

There were a number of families in Cefn Cribwr and Kenfig Hill called Flower. Neville Granville in his booklet on Cefn Wesley, refers to Jim Flower as being one of the young stalwarts of the church. His brother Frank was a longstanding member of the church.

A poem in the Gazette by 'Cyclist' S. Angel entitled 'The Kenfig Hill Boys', has a verse about how popular Jim Flower was.

Jim joined the 10th Battalion Lancashire Fusiliers, the same Battalion as Thomas Davies and George Crocombe. He was the first of the three to die - only 4 months after the Battalion landed in Boulogne. James Flower is also remembered on the Menin Gate.

JACK GRABHAM

John Grabham was Private 22343 13th Battalion Welsh Regiment and the son of James Grabham of Jyrbach, Cefn Road, Cefn Cribwr.

He joined the 13th (Service) Battalion (2nd Rhondda) of the Welsh Regiment on 21st January 1915. This was formed in Cardiff on 23rd October 1914 and also became part of the 114th Brigade of the 38th (Welsh) Division. It landed in Le Havre in December 1915. It remained in France and Flanders throughout the War and took part in many battles already described. Jack experienced many bloody and muddy battles before he died on 28th August, 1918 aged 44. The last battles in the month before he died were the Battle of Le Hamel which began on the 4th July, 1918 and the 2nd Battle of the Marne which started on the 15th July. There is no actual battle recorded for August so he may have died of wounds or Trench Fever.

John Grabham was considerably older than most of the men who joined in the War.

He is buried in the Caterpillar Valley Cemetery Longueville.

CATERPILLAR VALLEY CEMETERY LONGUEVILLE

By courtesy of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



The Caterpillar Valley is a long valley rising eastwards past Caterpillar Wood at Guillemont. The ground was captured after fierce fighting in July 1916. It was lost in the German advance of March 1918, but recovered by the 38th (Welsh) Division on 28th August 1918, the day John Grabham died.

A little cemetery was made containing twenty five graves of the 38th Division and the 6th Dragoon guards. Later this cemetery was increased and it now contains 5,569 Commonwealth burials and Commemorations of World War I

The Cemetery and the Memorial were designed by Sir Herbert Baker.

Nigel Williams has visited Longueville and seen the grave.

ROBERT MASSEY

Sergeant Robert Massey 2061 of the 9th Battalion Welsh Regiment was the husband of M.J. Massey of 61, New Houses, Cefn Cribwr. Who died of his

wounds on the 4th January, 1916, aged 44. Like Jack Grabham, Robert Massey was older than the majority of men who died.

He joined the 9th Battalion of the Welsh Regiment- the same Battalion as Sebastian Burto. He died earlier than Sebastian, probably during the 2nd Battle of Ypres.

The Gazette reports a special Memorial Service held for Robert Massey at Calvary Baptist Chapel who died as a result of wounds received in action in France. There was a crowded congregation at the Service led by Rev. J. Frecar (Pastor) who referred to the deceased man's devotion to duty and sacrifice as an encouragement and call to those who were left behind to greater devotion and nobility of life.

Robert Massey was said to be the first member of the church to fall, though not the first from the congregation. Great sympathy was felt for his widow and his relations.

He is buried in Longuenesse (St. Omer) Souvenir Cemetery in France.

LONGUENESSE (ST OMER) SOUVENIR CEMETERY

By courtesy of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



St Omer was the General Headquarters of the British Expeditionary Force from October 1914 to March 1916 and was a considerable hospital centre. There was a large casualty station there, away from the battlefield, where those with serious injuries were treated.

The cemetery was designed by Sir Herbert Baker and contains 2,874 World War I Commonwealth burials and 403 World War II burials.

Neville Granville and Nigel Williams have visited the Cemetery.



Neville Granville at the cemetery.

T.G. MORGAN

We believe this is Thomas George Morgan who was Shoeing Smith 154230, 524th Howitzer Battalion Royal Field Artillery, the son of James and Mary Morgan, who died on 26th April 1917 aged 24.

Field Artillery is a category of mobile artillery used to support armies in the field. The Howitzers were guns capable of high angle fire. This was originally an element of the regular army and would have been manned by serving regulars and special reservists at the beginning of the War, but from around October 1914 they began to be supplemented by wartime recruits. The R.F.A. units were increasingly mixed into the New Army Divisions from late 1915.

The most numerous arm of the artillery was the horse-drawn Royal Field Artillery which was responsible for the artillery close to the front line. A Shoeing Smith was a blacksmith who made and fitted shoes on the horses used by the Royal Field Artillery.

Thomas George is buried in the Amara War Cemetery on the left bank of the Tigris.

This area was occupied by the Mesopotamian Expeditionary Force on 3rd July 1915 and immediately became a hospital centre. On 21st April 18,000 men were killed at the Battle of Istanbul in the main assault against the Turks, and 40,000 died of sickness.

Accommodation for medical units greatly increased during 1916 and in April 1917 when Thomas George died.

The cemetery contains 4,621 World War I burials.

In 1933 all the headstones were removed, as salts from the soil were causing deterioration. A screen wall was erected with the names engraved on it. This memorial is difficult to maintain as it is in Iraq. Therefore, there is a Roll of Honour listing the casualties in Maidenhead. It is hoped to undertake a major rehabilitation of the actual cemeteries when the political situation allows.

AMARA WAR CEMETERY

By courtesy of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



HARRY ORME

There is quite a lot of information about H.A.A. Orme, Sergeant 699 "A" Battalion 83rd Brigade Royal Field Artillery, who died on 17th November 1917. Cefn Cribwr is not mentioned but there is a Harry Orme who came from Bristol but who enlisted in Porthcawl. The 1911 census shows Harry Orme living at 11, Bridge Street, Kenfig Hill.

Neville Granville's book '1000 Faces' refers to the Ormes who came from Bristol, with a photo of Harry who lived at one time in Jenkins Row facing Mynydd Bach Common in Cefn Cribwr. Harry Orme worked in local colleges and also in Mexico. He was a loyal member of Cefn Wesley Chapel and married a fellow Church member Evelyn Howe. They lived on High Street, Kenfig Hill and had a daughter Blanche who married Cyril Jones. Blanche and Cyril were staunch members of Kenfig Hill Methodist Church. They both lived to a good age and were known to many.

Harry volunteered and joined the 83rd Brigade Royal Field Artillery eventually becoming a Sergeant. He was about 30 when he was killed. He is buried in Bard Cottage Cemetery, Belgium.

For much of the War the village of Boesinghe (now Boezinge) directly faced the German line across the Yser canal. There was a major advance of Artillery to the area in the autumn of 1917. Bard Cottage was a house set back from the line close to Bard's Causeway Bridge. The cemetery was made nearby in a sheltered position under a high bank. Burials were made between June 1915 and October 1918. 1,639 Commonwealth Casualties are buried there. The cemetery was designed by Sir Reg Bloomfield.

Photo of Harry and Eveline Orme from Neville Granville's Book 'A Thousand Names and Faces'.



BARD COTTAGE CEMETERY

By courtesy of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



DAVID WILLIAMS

This is David Williams, Private 18930 1st Battalion of the South Wales Borderers who died on 28th May 1915, aged 21. He was the son of Mary Jane Raikes of 5, John Street, Cefn Cribwr. The 1911 Census lists Mary Jane (37) and John Raikes(36 and a coal hewer) living in John Street with Evan John 8, Cornelia Ann 7, Catherine Gwenllian 6, Samuel Colston 5, Siencyn William 4, Ednyfed Francis 3 and Mary Ellender 6 months. Cornelia Greenslade nee Raikes lived in the village all her life and many of her family still live here.

David Williams joined the 1st Battalion of the South Wales Borderers which was a Battalion of the Regular Army. The 1st Battalion became part of the 3rd Brigade and went to France with the original British Expeditionary Force, landing in Le Havre on 14th August 1914 and took part in all the earlier battles of the War. They met the full force of the German Army at Mons forcing the famous retreat but soon mounted a counter attack. In September 1914 they carried out a gallant attack on the Chemin des Dames, losing 150 men, and on

26th September held a vital position on the Mont Faucon Spur when men fought hand-to-hand in the quarries. 200 men and 8 officers were lost. Haig congratulated the Battalion on putting up a gallant resistance against heavy odds. On 31st October, after 10 days heavy fighting in mud and rain, they held a position in front of Gheluvelt Chateau amid constant sniping, frequent shelling and heavy bombardment but fought bravely and caused the Germans to retreat thus saving a possible onslaught on the Channel ports. This was regarded as their greatest achievement.

The battalion fought out the rest of the War in the 1st Division. David lost his life in May 1915 so is likely to have experienced the above fighting. It is reported that a fellow soldier from Cefn Cribwr was at his side when he died.

David's death was recorded in the Gazette on the 5th November, 1915. It recorded that before enlisting he was employed at Ton Phillip Colliery and says that he was a great favourite among local footballers and that he was commonly known as Foley.

He is buried in the Woburn Abbey Cemetery in Cuinchy, France.

Woburn Abbey Cemetery was named from a house to the east side of the cemetery used as Battalion Headquarters and as a Dressing Station. It was begun in June 1915 but closed after a few months in January 1916 due to its exposed position. Several smaller cemeteries were added later.

There are now 550 casualties commemorated at the site. Of these, nearly half are unidentified and special memorials have been created to three soldiers from the UK known or believed to be buried among them

WOBURN ABBEY CEMETERY CUINCHY

By courtesy of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



WORLD WAR 2

Just over 20 years after the end of World War I we were at War again and sadly yet more young men were to die in action. This War involved the majority of the nations of the world and was the most widespread in history, with more than a one hundred million people serving in military units. It resulted in 50-70 million deaths both civilian and military. Estimates for the total death toll vary as many deaths went unreported but most suggest that about 20 million soldiers and about 40 million civilians died world-wide. In the United Kingdom (including the colonies) approximately 450,000 died, 67,000 of whom were civilians.



HOWELL GLASNANT BRADSHAW

Howell Glasnant Bradshaw was D/KX 105975, H.M.S Hecla, Royal Navy. Glasnant was a Stoker 1st Class, which was a sailor who worked in the boiler room, still called a stoker, though by World War II many of the boilers would have been oil fired. He died on 12th November 1942.

He and Richard Henry Bradshaw were brothers and lived in Merlin House. Their parents were Richard and Catherine E. Bradshaw. Both parents were

born in Cefn Cribwr and in the 1911 Census the family were living at 60 Cefn Road (Merlin House). Richard Henry was 5 months, his sister Margaret Ann was 4 and his sister Winifred Blanche was 2. Howell Glasnant Bradshaw had not yet been born. He was born in 1917.

Howell Glasnant Bradshaw married Christins R. Macgowan in the first quarter of 1942 and the marriage was registered in Bridgend.

HMS Hecla was a Destroyer depot ship powered by three Paxman Ventura 12 cylinder Vee Turbogarged engines. She was sunk on 12th November 1942, 180 miles west of Gibraltar. She was taking part in the Allied landings of North Africa and was torpedoed five times by U-515. A total of 279 men died and there were 568 survivors, most of whom, when pulled from the water were covered in oil.

Howell Glasnant Bradshaw is remembered with honour on the Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 70 Column 1.

A number of those who died are remembered on the Plymouth Memorial which is situated on Plymouth Hoe. It was established as a way of remembering those who had no known grave, the majority of deaths having occurred at sea.

PLYMOUTH NAVAL MEMORIAL

By courtesy of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



It was designed by Sir Robert Lorimer and was unveiled by Prince George in 1924.

The World War II extension was designed by Sir Edward Maufe with additional sculptures by Charles Wheeler and William McMillan and was unveiled by Princess Margaret in 1954. It commemorates 7,251 sailors of WW1 and 15,933 from WW2.

RICHARD HENRY BRADSHAW

Howell Glasnant Bradshaw's brother was Driver Richard Henry Bradshaw – T/231505, Royal Army Service Corps, who died aged 33 on 2nd October 1943. The Royal Army Service Corps was responsible for land, coastal and lake transport, air despatch, supply of food and water. Drivers were needed for tanks and all other forms of military transport.

Richard Henry Bradshaw is remembered with honour on the Medjez-el-Bab War Memorial 60 miles west of Tunis in Tunisia. 2,903 Commonwealth Servicemen are commemorated or buried in this cemetery. The majority died between 8th November 1942 and May 1943 when the War in North Africa came to an end. However Richard Henry's death came after this, but no more is known about the circumstances. He died less than a year after his brother.

He had five children. The youngest, Sandra Evans lives in Bridgend. His wife Flo Berry came from Kenfig Hill.

The family placed an 'In Memoriam' in the Gazette in affectionate remembrance of Richard Henry, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Bradshaw, Merlin House, Cefn Cribwr who was killed 2nd October, 1943, resting in Constantine Cemetery, North Africa, constantly in the thoughts of Mam, Dad, Sisters and Brothers. Followed by the words:-

"We remember you dear;

To the world a soldier,

To us the world".

His wife also placed an 'In Memoriam' – In loving memory of a darling Husband and Daddy, Driver Richard Henry Bradshaw, killed in action B.N.A.F. October 2nd 1943 from his loving wife Flo and children with this verse:-

"I think of you in silence.

I often speak your name.

But all I have are memories

And your photo in a frame".

MEDJEZ-EL-BAB WAR CEMETERY

By courtesy of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Three of Richard Henry's 5 children have been to visit the grave which they say is beautiful and well kept.

B.BROWN

The evidence suggests that this is Bertie Brown who went to Australia. Further evidence is available in Neville Granville's '1000 Faces' in which there is a photo of Bertie Brown, date of birth 5th July 1902 where it is also stated that he went to Australia. There is a record of a Bertie Brown born in Bridgend in July/August/September 1902. The 1911 census has a Bertie Brown aged 8 living in Cefn Cribwr at 4, Pleasant View with his parents John 51 and Mary Ann 49. He was the youngest of the siblings recorded. The others were Richard 27, William Burgess 25, Louisa 23, David John 18, Thomas 15, Sidney 13 and Evelyn 10. If this is the correct Bertie Brown he was the youngest brother of Jack Brown who perished in World War I.

Members of the Brown family still live in the Bridgend area.

From Neville Granville's book 'A Thousand Names and faces'.



However, it has not been possible to link a Bertie or even a B. Brown to Cefn Cribwr or to UK or Australian forces. The only Bertie Brown is one whose birthplace is given as London although it does have in brackets (not otherwise specified). There is no additional information and no age at death so there are no further clues.

JUSTYN STUART GRABHAM

Justyn Stuart Grabham was Sergeant 97677, of 21 Squadron, Royal Air Force Reserve who died on 11th February 1942 aged 26. He was the son of Edward and Margaret Grabham and the husband of Mary Grabham of Pontyclun.

This photo of Justyn and much of the information about him is from Phil Tapper's book 'Debt of Honour' with kind permission. Justyn attended Bridgend County School and friends remember him as lively and engaging with very red hair and considerable sporting ability. He won the *Victor Ludorum* in the County School Sports twice. He was one of six children and his school nickname was 'Ginger-Curly' to distinguish him from a younger brother with equally red but straight hair. He had two brothers - Emlyn and Arfon - and three sisters - Rebecca Ann, Adeline and Rhonwen. His niece still lives in Cefn Cribwr.

Doug Mitchell remembers him as his Sunday School teacher in Siloam. Many who remember Justyn speak of him as being a very nice young man. He was married shortly before he died and had a daughter who, sadly, he never saw.

Justyn Grabham volunteered in 1940, leaving his job as an insurance agent. He joined 21 Squadron Royal Air Force Reserve following conversion training. The Squadron became involved in the War in May 1940 when it began daylight attacks on advancing German columns in the Low Countries and France. The Squadron operated from Scotland to attack German shipping off the coast of Norway, later going to Norfolk to begin regular low-level attacks on enemy shipping. At the end of 1941 the Squadron moved to Malta to attack Italian shipping. At Christmas 1941 Justyn was recalled from leave and sent to Malta as a wireless operator/air gunner on a Blenheim bomber. His aircraft was intercepted when returning from an anti- shipping patrol and was shot down in the sea off Malta.

By courtesy of Phil Tapper



He is remembered on the Malta Memorial which is situated in the area of Floriana and which commemorates almost 2,300 men serving with the Commonwealth Air Forces who have no known grave.

MALTA MEMORIAL

By courtesy of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



A number of people, including Ken Grabham, have visited the Memorial.

W.JENKINS

It has not been possible to identify W. Jenkins with any degree of certainty. A possible clue came from a 97-year-old lady who revisited Cefn School in 2012 for the first time since she was a pupil here. She said that he was Wilfred Jenkins who was in school with her. Unfortunately, he was omitted from the list on the Dedication Service leaflet.

The only Wilfred Jenkins from the War Graves Commission site that seems a possibility is Private Wilfred Jenkins, 6348755 of the 4th Battalion, Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment, who died aged 28 on the 18th March 1944. He was the son of John and Margaret Jenkins and the husband of Phyllis Anne Jenkins of Greenford Middlesex, who is remembered with honour in the

Taukkyan War Cemetery in Burma. Research on ancestry.co.uk showed that this Wilfred Jenkins was born in Glamorgan, so it is possible, though by no means certain, that it could be him.

JOSIAH G.MORGAN

Able Seaman Josiah Glanville Morgan – D/JX 188779, HMS Fleur de Lys, Royal Navy volunteered following a broken romance and died on 14th October, 1941 aged 23. He is remembered with honour in the BEN M'SIK EUROPEAN CEMETERY in Morocco. He was the son of John and Sarah Morgan of Laleston, Glamorgan.

By courtesy of Noel Morgan



Josiah Morgan is also pictured in Neville Granville's book 'Thousand Names and Faces' as Captain of the Cefn Cribwr Junior Rugby Fifteen in 1938/9. He attended Bridgend County School from 1929 to 1933. His nephew currently

lives in Cefn Cribwr and a cousin lives in Pyle. Josiah had seven brothers and a sister. He was born in a cottage in Llangewydd where he lived for many years.

He is remembered also on his grandparents' grave in Bethel graveyard Laleston.

BEN M'SIK EUROPEAN CEMETERY

By courtesy of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



The HMS Fleur De Lys was a British Corvette which was sunk on 14th October 1941 by U-206 (Herbert Opitz) about 55 miles west of Gibraltar. The ship was part of the escort of convoy OG75. There were only three survivors. J.G. Morgan is listed as having been aboard.

WILFRED MORGAN

Teify Davies, John Morgan, Frances Dyer and Doug Mitchell all remember Wilfred Morgan who lived in West Avenue and had three sisters, one of whom was Bernice Morgan. It would seem that Wilfred was related to Alphonso Morgan who died in the First World War. Wilfred would have been his nephew. Wilfred Morgan is described as having black, curly hair. It is said that he had a girlfriend living in Cornelly who used to come to Cefn Cribwr on the 2

o'clock bus. Teify Davies lived near Wilfred. He was in the Air Force, having been 'called up'.

There are several Wilfred Morgans on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission site, but none with any additional information that would link them to Cefn Cribwr.

All efforts to find any trace of Wilfred Morgan through ancestry.co.uk have failed.

JACK SMART

Leading Aircraftman Jack Smart, 956483, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve died aged 25, on 29th November, 1943.

He was the son of Francis Henry and Beatrice Smart and the husband of Gladys May of Penyfai. Jack Smart is described in 'Debt of Honour' by Phil Tapper. He refers to him as being 'a real gentleman' by a younger neighbour. Jack was an only child, and when he left Bridgend Grammar School he went to work for the Milk Marketing Board in Cardiff. He is described as being a very tall man. He lived opposite the school. Those who remember him say he was very interested in sport and played cricket on the Common.

He volunteered for the RAF and Phil Tapper describes how he went to France as one of the ground crew for the air support sent with the British Expeditionary Force, and was sent to the Far East where he was captured by the Japanese. He died when a Japanese ship taking prisoners to Java was sunk, probably by an American submarine.

The Gazette reported at first that Mr Frank Smart of Bryn Road, Cefn Cribwr had heard that his son Jack was alive and well but a prisoner in Japanese hands. However, sadly, just a month later, a second report said that he had been officially notified that his son had died as a prisoner of war.

Jack Smart is remembered on the Singapore Memorial in Kranji War Cemetery. The area was originally a military camp and later a prisoner of war camp. The Kranji cemetery was developed from a small cemetery started by the prisoners at Kranji. Within the cemetery stand a number of memorials including the Singapore Memorial which bears the names of over 24,000 casualties of the Commonwealth land and air forces with no known grave.

SINGAPORE MEMORIAL

By courtesy of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Jack is also remembered in Cefn Cribwr Methodist Church where there is a commemorative vase in pride of place on the Communion Table.

The inscription reads – *To the Glory of God and in loving memory of L.A.C. Jack Smart R.A.F who died while a prisoner of war in Japanese hands November 29th 1943-dedicated by Mr and Mrs F. Smart. "Per Ardua ad Astra".*

By courtesy of Cefn Cribwr Methodist Church





OLAF A. STENNER

Able Seaman Olaf Arwystli Stenner, D/SSX 26236, HMS Glorious, Royal Navy who died on 8th June 1940 aged 18. He was the son of John Stenner and Jennet Stenner, nee Rowden, of Cefn Cribwr. The family lived in the cottage behind the newsagents.

The HMS Glorious was built in World War I and rebuilt as an aircraft carrier in the 1920's. She spent much of 1939 unsuccessfully hunting for the German pocket battleship Admiral Graf Spee in the Indian Ocean. She was recalled in April, 1940 to support British operations in Norway. She was sunk while evacuating British aircraft from Norway in June by the German Scharnhorst and Gneisenau in the North Sea with a loss of over 1,200 lives.

Olaf Arwystli is remembered on the Plymouth Memorial.



IVOR THOMAS

Able Seaman Ivor Thomas D/JX 364336, HMS KITE , Royal Navy, died on 21st August 1944. He was the son of Evan Stanley Thomas and the husband of Elizabeth Thomas of Cefn Cribwr. He was one of ten children and the only one in the forces. The other boys all worked in the mines. Ivor also worked in the mine but later transferred to the quarry. His youngest sister records that he was always smiling. Members of Ivor's family still live in Cefn Cribwr and in Bridgend.

HMS Kite was launched in October 1942. She took part in the sinking of five German U-boats with several sister ships. But on 20th August 1944 she was hit by two torpedoes from U344 and sunk. Of 10 officers and 207 ratings, 60 survived, but only 14 were picked up from the freezing Arctic water and 5 of those died on board so there were only 9 survivors.

Ivor Thomas is remembered on the Plymouth Memorial.



By courtesy of Ivor's sister Mary



GLYN THOMAS

Henry Glyndwr Thomas was Lance Corporal 2736992 of the 3rd Battalion of the Welsh Guards who died on the 8th May, 1943 at the age of 29 and who is buried in the Enfidaville War Cemetery.

His family lived in 10, Bryn Terrace, Cefn Cribwr.

By courtesy of Lynn David



The 3rd Battalion of the Welsh Guards was formed in 1941. They sailed to North Africa in February 1943 and started to play their part in the Tunisia North

Africa campaign. In early April 1943 the Battalion advanced and captured the whole El Rhorab feature, coming under heavy machine gun and mortar fire and suffering many casualties before they finally stopped in the foothills. Eventually they reached the top and the enemy surrendered. The Battalion suffered a loss of 9 officers and 105 men.

Their next involvement was on 8th May, the day Glyn Thomas died. They were ordered to capture the town of Hamman Lif in which they successfully achieved but with a loss 24 men who were killed or died of wounds. The War in North Africa came to an end in Tunisia in May 1943 with the defeat of the Axis powers by a combined Allied force.

There are several 'In Memoria' for Glyn from his family in the Glamorgan Gazette archives:

'Cherished memories of our dear son Glyn, killed in Tunisia, May 8th 1943. Ever remembered, Mum and Dad'.

He lies beneath a foreign sky,

The lad we loved so well.

He did his duty like a man,

And like a hero fell.

But the hardest blow is yet to come,

When the boys all return,

And we shall miss from cheering crowds,

The face of our dear son.

'Loving memories of dear Glyn, killed in Tunisia, May 8th 1943'.

Ever remembered by Two Brothers (Jim and Dai)

God's greatest gift- remembrance.

Cherished memories of dear Glyn

'Always in our thoughts Phyll, Stan and Sylvia'.

We were not there to clasp your hand

Nor there to see you die.

We only know you passed away,

Without a last goodbye.

‘Cherished memories from Mag, George, Malcolm and Gloria’.

We little thought when he left home

He would no more return.

That he so soon in death would sleep

And leave us all to mourn.

‘Cherished memories from Gwyneth, Don and Baby’. (Carmen- later Carmen David)

He was always smiling, happy and content,

Loved and respected wherever he went.

‘Cherished memories and greatly missed by Ray, Arthur, Alberta and Cecil’.

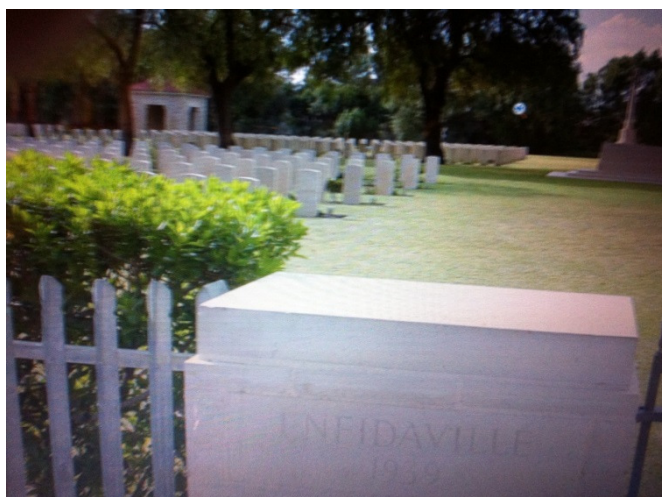
We lost a brother with a heart of gold

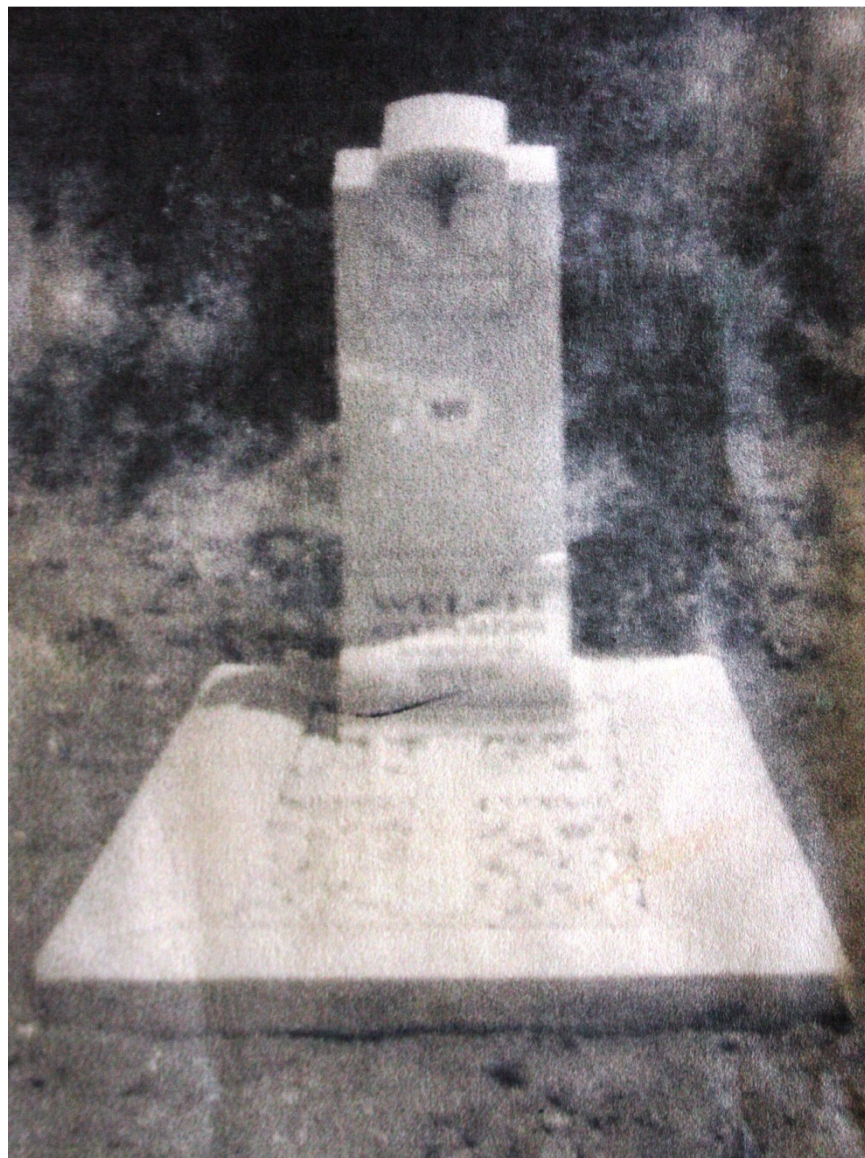
Who was more to us than wealth untold

A life of sacrifice. Patience and love,

May God grant him peace in the heaven above.

Glyn Thomas is remembered in the Enfidaville War Cemetery approximately 100 kilometres south of Tunis. Most of those buried in Enfidaville died in those final battles from March to the beginning of May. The cemetery contains 1,551 Commonwealth burials, 88 of them unidentified.





TREVOR WILLIAMS

Able Seaman Trevor Williams D/JX 362087, HMS Itchen, Royal Navy, died on 23rd September, 1943 aged 20. He was the son of Evan John and Hilda Williams of Cefn Cribwr. He lived on Sea View and is described as a tall thin boy.

HMS Itchen was a River Class frigate launched in 1942. She was blown up on 23rd September 1943 when she was hit by an acoustic homing torpedo fired by U666. 227 men died. There were three survivors.

Trevor is remembered on the Plymouth Memorial.



NAMES ADDED TO THE NEW WAR MEMORIAL

When Commissioning the New War Memorial, the Community Council became aware of others from Cefn Cribwr who had died in or as a result of the two World Wars but whose names had been omitted from the original War Memorial. It was decided to add those below to the New War Memorial. ***The criterion for inclusion is that their names appear on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission site.***

WORLD WAR ONE

HARRY HALL

Harry Hall was Private 21265 Royal Army Medical Corps who died on 6th May 1917 aged 35. His wife was Martha Jane Hall of 37, West Street, Bridgend. He was a half brother to William Thomas Anthony whose daughter Laura still lives in Cefn Cribwr and Edwin Robert Anthony who also lived in Cefn and was a conscientious objector. When Harry was young the family lived for a while in Celynfa.

It appears that he died in the UK at the Southampton docks as a result of an injury sustained while unloading material at the docks when he fell and scraped his head. He probably died of blood poisoning. All wounded soldiers from France were initially taken to Southampton before being taken to various hospitals.

He is buried in Nebo Chapel and was a member of the St. John Ambulance Division in Cefn Cribwr.

He appears on the 1911 Census as residing at 7, Bedford Road with his wife and two daughters, Gwladys May 4 and Laura 2.

The Gazette on 25th May, 1912 recorded Harry's death under the heading; R.A.M.C. man's death. It says that Harry was a well-known figure in Cefn Cribwr in the far off days before the War. It continues by saying that He was always indefatigable in his attendance on the cases under his charge and may be said to have given his life for his country much as if he had died in the Trenches. It reports that he was given a military funeral.



By kind permission of Nebo Chapel

ALPHONSO MORGAN

Alphonso Morgan was Private 22403 of the 11th Battalion of the South Wales Borderers. He was the son of Mrs. Johanna Morgan of Almshouses, Coedcwnnwr, (Coedkernew) Usk.

Alphonso was hailed as a Cefn Cribwr hero in the Gazette and referred to as "Dear old Phons."



He was the youngest but one of four brothers who all 'did their bit' for King and Country.

His brothers also lived in Kenfig Hill and Cefn Cribwr. One brother, Trevor married Edna Granville and lived in 'Heathlands' for many years.

Alphonso Morgan first served in the Navy from 1912, but was discharged due to injuries received in a fall. He joined the South Wales Borderers around Whitsun 1915.

The Gazette reported that in a letter to his mother the Captain said that he was seriously wounded on February 10th 1916 and died of his wounds some hours later.

Alphonso Morgan is buried in the St. Venant Communal Cemetery in France.

From January 1915 to October 1916, British and Indian Casualty Clearing Stations were posted at St. Venant. Plot 2 was used for burials from August 1915 to December 1916.

ST VENANT

Courtesy of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Alphonso Morgan's War Medal

By courtesy of Mr Derek Ullmann, the son-in-law of Alphonso's brother Trevor Morgan.



Memorial Medals World War I

In 1916 it was agreed to award some sort of Memorial to the next of kin of members of His Majesty's Armed Forces who fell in action. A competition was held to decide the design of the plaque and the medals were awarded from December 1918 onwards. The winning design was by Edward Carter Preston, 1894-1965. The design was called 'Pyramus'

It was a large bronze medal with a standing figure of Britannia holding a trident surrounded by dolphins (representing Britain's sea power) with a lion (representing Britain) standing over a defeated eagle (symbolising Germany).

The inscription read – **HE DIED FOR FREEDOM AND HONOUR.**

It was uniface - one side bearing the design and the other side blank. The name of the individual who died was cast into each medal. It was not engraved later. No rank was provided to show equity in their sacrifice.

The medallion came to be known popularly as a 'Dead Man's Penny'.

Over one million were produced commemorating the sacrifice of men and women from 14th August, 1914 to 30th April, 1920.

WORLD WAR II

ALBERT EDWARD FUDGE

Albert Edward Fudge was Marine PLY/22305 HMS Stronghold died on 2nd March, 1942 aged 44. He was the son of Albert Edward and Caroline Fudge and the husband of Edna Fudge of Cefn Cribwr. He was born in Cardiff and was generally known as Pat. The record of the marriage of Alfred Edward Fudge and Edna May McGale shows that they married in Cardiff in 1933. His wife, who was commonly known as Enid, came from Fforddygyfraith and they came to live in Cefn Cribwr.

His son Marcus Fudge was at school with current Cefn residents. He married a fellow school pupil and moved to Australia. There were 3 other children – Bernard who died young, and twins John and James.

He joined the Royal Marines and fought at the Battle of the River Plate in December 1939. He was on board HMS Exeter which was badly damaged by the Graf Spee. He was presumed missing in action, but survived.

His next ship was the HMS Prince of Wales which was sunk by the Japanese off the coast of Malaya in December 1941, but he again survived.

He escaped to Java and boarded HMS Stronghold which was a Destroyer built in 1919. On 2nd March, 1942 a Japanese task group consisting of the heavy cruiser Maya and the destroyers Arashi and Nowaki belonging to a Japanese carrier force operating South of Java, discovered and sank HMS Stronghold.

An Albert Fudge is listed as having died on board. About fifty men were taken prisoner.

Albert Edward Fudge is remembered on the Plymouth Memorial.

JIMMY LEACH

James Ninian Barnard Leach was Gunner 1133123, 381 Battalion 96 (The Royal 1st Devon Yeomanry) Field Regiment Royal Artillery who died aged 25 on 18th September, 1947. He was the son of Daniel and Nora Kate Leach and the husband of Mair Leach of Cefn Cribwr.

By courtesy of Sheila Morgan, Jimmy's daughter



Jimmy contracted TB while out in Burma. He was in hospital in Kuala Lumpur for some time and was brought home by Dr. Chris Jones of Cardiff. He was so emaciated that members of the family didn't recognise him.

His grave is in Nebo Chapel Churchyard. His daughter still lives in Cefn Cribwr. She was three years old when he died.



By kind permission of Nebo Chapel.

OTHER CEFN MEN

Some additional names of men who died who have some connection with Cefn Cribwr and deserve to be remembered in this booklet.

JOSEPH DAVIES

Joseph Davies was Private 3966210, Welch Regiment who died on 20th March, 1943. He was the son of Joseph and Ellen Davies of Cefn Cribwr and is remembered with honour in Laleston (St. David) Churchyard.

SPENCER HARDING

Lance Corporal Spencer Harding is listed in Phil Tapper's book 'Debt of Honour' as being from Cefn Cribwr. He was a Bridgend County School Boy who joined the Kings' Own Royal Regiment in 1942 having previously served in the South Wales Borderers. After action in the Western Desert, Spencer Harding's Battalion took part in the invasion of the Greek island Leros, one of the Dodecanese islands that lie between Greece and Turkey in the Aegean Sea. There was bitter hand-to-hand fighting in which Spencer was fatally wounded on the 13th November, 1943 at the age of 26. He was buried in Phaleron War Centre in Athens.

Spencer Harding is remembered on the Kenfig Hill memorial but he was from Cefn Cribwr.

DENIS PHILLIPS

Dennis (or Denis) Phillips was from Court Colman. He gained the reputation of being the luckiest pilot in the Fleet air Arm, as he survived eight crashes, including landing on HMS Victorious with an armed bomb hanging by a single wire. He also took part in the successful attack on the German battleship Tirpitz, disabling her just before the D-Day landings. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for that action. This is likely to be the Denis Phillips 1103174 of the Royal Air Force Voluntary Reserve who died 31st August, 1945 and is remembered on the Jakarta War Memorial.

WILLIAM PHILLIPS

Gunner William Phillips was born at Pantrosia. On leaving school he began to train as a pharmaceutical chemist with Jones and Lewis in Caroline Street, Bridgend. Perhaps it was this experience which led him to become an orderly at the Welsh hospital at Nettley on the Solent. All wounded soldiers from France were initially taken to Southampton before being taken to various other hospitals. (It should be remembered that Harry Hall was in the Medical Corps and died in Southampton).

By 1917, William had transferred to the Royal Field Artillery where he was Gunner 618314. He was killed on 27th April, 1917 aged 21. William Phillips was the son of David and Ann Phillips of Court Colman.

William Phillips is buried in Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery.

The record is incomplete. There is always more to find out. There may also be inaccuracies. We are so grateful for people's reminiscences. But they may vary!

We apologise for any incorrect information.

Those who read this may be able to add information or advise us about any errors.

We need to remember these men whose sacrifice gave those of us who live in Cefn Cribwr many of the blessings and benefits we now enjoy in our village.

**THEY SHALL NOT GROW OLD, AS WE WHO ARE LEFT,
GROW OLD:**

**AGE SHALL NOT WEARY THEM NOR THE YEARS
CONDEMN.**

**AT THE GOING DOWN OF THE SUN AND IN THE
MORNING,**

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM.

LAURENCE BINYON

Last service at the Previous Village War Memorial, Sunday 13th November, 2011.

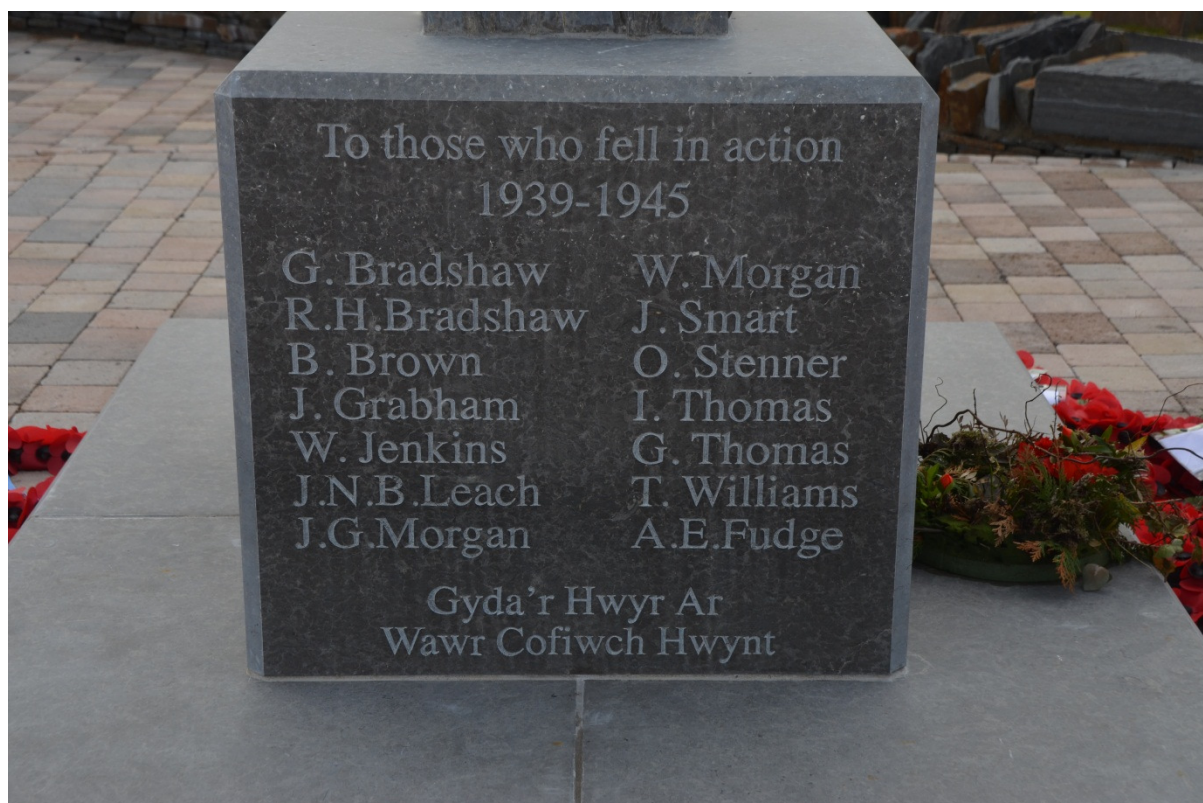


First Service at the New War Memorial, Sunday 11th November, 2012.











The New War Memorial. By Geoff Whittington, Landscape Architect.

The creation of a new war memorial at Cefn Cribwr allowed for the design of a key feature in the village's landscape. The proposed location at the Common is highly visible to those passing through or visiting Cefn Cribwr.

The design has a carved and polished stone Celtic Cross as its centre piece. This is encircled by stone monoliths forming a boundary to the memorial in which a wild flower meadow has been created with stone paving and raised planting beds. The meadow will be an area full of life with bees, butterflies and birds, while the views out across the Bristol Channel create a place of reflection.

Through the use of the stone monoliths a visual representation of the number of individuals that fell during the wars is created and complements the list of names on the cross's plinth. The top of each monolith is at the same height as the top of the cross's plinth. This is so that the shaft and cross's head remain the dominant feature in the landscape. As the ground slopes away to the south, some of the monoliths are over 2m in height, as the ground rises to the north the monoliths reduce in height to 500mm. This also reflects the differing ages of the men who are remembered there.

The cross stands at 4.5m tall and dominates the surrounding landscape. The scale of the cross is even more impressive when approached from the newly surfaced path leading to the paved area. It is when you crane your neck back and look up at the cross, that you appreciate the carvings on the stone from which it was hewn.

Naomi Leeke, Sculptor:

The request was for a War Memorial that looked like a War Memorial. Not so contemporary in style that one could not tell what it was. A mix of the traditional with contemporary was therefore deemed desirable. Carved stone or bronze are traditional mediums for War Memorials and we chose to create a work from Moelfre stone.

Moelfre stone, which is often called Anglesea Marble, is a very hard stone that gives a clean carving line and is sourced in Wales. It can be cut or polished to produce different hues of grey.

The Celtic cross was used as a traditional, relevant and recognisable motif with which to carry the names.

Poppy flowers are strongly associated with remembering war victims and heroes.

The poppy designs on this memorial are more realistic and alive looking than the symbol of poppies traditionally used in remembrance and war memorials.

Hopefully, I have created a work that stands proudly as a recognisable war memorial, with a contemporary take on traditional forms.

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