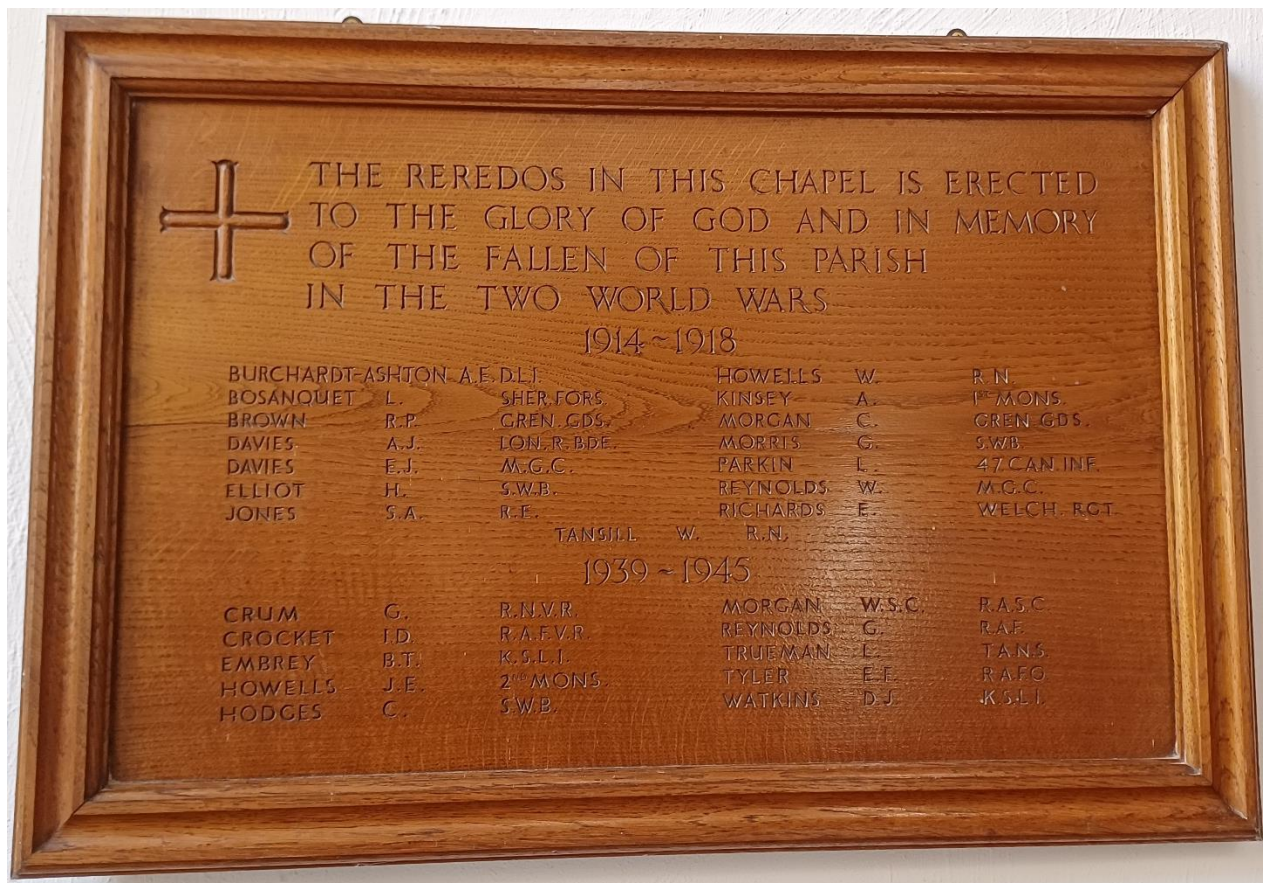


...at the going down of the sun....

Trellech Remembers.



The (brief) story behind the names on the war memorial plaque inside St Nicholas church.

There are three war memorials for the Trellech parish. One is a metal plaque on the wall by the lych-gate with 10 names, all from World War 1; one is a wooden plaque on the wall inside the church with 25 names from both world wars; the third is on the wall of the Catbrook Memorial Hall with the names of 91 of all who served from the parish during World War One, along with 14 who were killed. It also indicates those who were wounded or gassed but survived. Catbrook has a second wooden memorial to the fallen of both world wars.

This is a brief record of the people named on the memorial from the wall inside St Nicholas, chosen because it contains the most names, as best as can be ascertained. It is presented to St Nicholas Church, the Trellech parishioners and visitors, not for any commercial gain, simply for information purposes, in memory of those from the parish who were lost in the two world wars of the twentieth century.

Any errors in this research are entirely my fault. Should anyone have any further information, or wishes to make any corrections, all information will be gratefully received in order that the relevant page(s) can be amended.

Please email corrections to: cleddon@btinternet.com should you wish to make suggestions, or if you would like a .pdf copy of this booklet by email.

Brian M. Powell
Archaeologist and military historian.

February 2025.



The memorial on the wall by the St Nicholas lych-gate.



The Catbrook Memorial Hall memorial (above) with a list of all those who served, along with the names of the fallen. The second Catbrook memorial (below)



The names on the wall memorial inside St Nicholas are as follows:

WW1

- A.E. Burchardt-Ashton DLI
- L. Bosanquet Sher Fors
- R.P. Brown Gren Gds
- A.J. Davies Lon R Bde
- E.J. Davies MCG
- H. Elliott SWB
- S.A. Jones RE
- W. Howells RN
- A. Kinsey 1st Mons
- C. Morgan Gren Gds
- G. Morris SWB
- L. Parkyn 47 Can Inf
- W. Reynolds MCG
- E. Richards Welch Reg
- W. Tansill RN

WW2

- W.S.C. Morgan RASC
- G. Reynolds RAF
- L. Trueman TANS
- E.F. Tyler RAFO
- D.J. Watkins KSLI
- G. Crum RNVR
- I.D. Crocket RAFVR
- B.T. Embrey KSLI
- J.E. Howells 2nd Mons
- C. Hodges SWB

A.E. Burchardt-Ashton. DLI

Lance-Corporal Alexander Ernest Burchardt-Ashton. Service number: 8219. 22nd Battalion Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment), attached 7th Battalion, Durham Light Infantry. Killed in Action 11th July 1916. Aged 28.

Born 28th October 1888 in Maui, Hawaii. Youngest son of Arthur Godfrey Burchardt-Ashton (J.P and Monmouthshire County Councillor) & Rosamund Augusta (nee Rathbone) of Cleeve House, Berkeley, who also resided at Cleddon Hall (rented from Mrs Bosanquet between 1893 to 1911), before moving again to Llandogo Priory. Originally the family surname was Burchardt, but on September 6th 1890 Queen Victoria granted Arthur Godfrey Burchardt of Pole Bank Hall, Werneth, Cheshire *“her license and authority to take and use the name of Ashton in addition to and after that of Burchardt in accordance with the will of the late Benjamin Ashton”*. Arthur lived at Pole Bank Hall before moving to Cleddon around 1893.

Alexander led a life of adventure, something obviously inherited from his father who was also an adventurer, Frontiersman in Canada, global traveller and investor in both the Great Western Railway and Chair of the Buffalo and Lake Huron Railway Company of Canada. In 1910 Arthur wrote an article for *The Field* gentleman’s magazine about a bear hunt he had just returned from in Colorado. Arthur (aged 30) and Rosamund (aged 28) had emigrated to USA from Liverpool on board RMS Adriatic, arriving in New York on 16th May 1885. They must have been in Hawaii by 1888 when Alexander was born, but were back in the UK by 1893 when they were at Cleddon Hall and made a donation to the St Nicholas Trellech Church Restoration Fund.

Alexander was educated at ‘Haileybury and Imperial Service College’ (the old East India Company College) in Hertfordshire from 1903. On August 8th 1908 he was gazetted Second-Lieutenant in the Gloucestershire Yeomanry before joining the Irish Guards. In 1910 he was promoted as a Lieutenant in the 4th (Royal Irish) Dragoon Guards, but later seconded to the Royal Flying Corps, joining Number 3 Squadron Royal Flying Corps at Larkhill Camp, Salisbury Plain in 1912. He gained a Royal Aero Club aviator certificate (No. 201) dated 16th April 1912, but was forced to resign his commission on 15th November 1913 amid a scandal at Brooklands Airfield supposedly involving ‘flying and whisky’.

In May of 1912 he had run his aircraft into a crowd of spectators and overturned, resulting in the death of a 15 year old boy. At the inquest in Salisbury he stated that he had been studying aviation for about 8 months and was a certified pilot. Whilst stationed at Tidworth he had travelled to the British Colonial Flying School at Larkhill where he flew in a Bristol Tractor biplane, a type he had never flown before. After a 10 minute flight landed the aircraft which then ran along the ground for about 180 yards further than he expected and into a crowd of spectators.

Alexander married Avarine Mary Constance Humphreys in County Cork, Ireland in February 1914 and had one daughter Averina Rosamond Locke (born in Dublin November 1914).

He had been awarded a Royal Humane Society medal, and he had tried unsuccessfully to join Shackleton on his expedition to the Antarctic. In 1914 at the outbreak of war Alexander joined the Royal Fusiliers as a Private, later being promoted to a Lance-Corporal, in the 18th Battalion (1st Public Schools) City of London Regiment, serving as Alexander Ashton service number PS/8219. He later transferred to the 22nd Battalion (Kensingtons) and by 1916 he was in 'A' Company who were fighting around Ypres (modern Ieper) in Belgium.

By July 1916 he had been attached to the 7th Battalion of the Durham Light Infantry, the Pioneer Battalion for 50th (Northumbrian) Division, still as a Lance-Corporal, still with Service Number 8219. The pioneers were responsible for constructing, repairing and maintaining the trenches. In July 1916 the battalion was based around Scherpenberg, West Flanders, a little to the south-west of Ypres. Here they were working on a communications trench called Poppy Lane under occasional German barrage fire. During the beginning of July they were working on revetting a new arm of Poppy Lane to Wytschate Beck and laid a plank walk along the beck to Vierstraat Road. They were tasked with clearing the trench, fitting 'U' frames and revetting the trench walls. Alexander was killed along with some of his compatriots on 11th July 1916 during this work.

Alexander is buried in the La Laiterie Military Cemetery, near where he was working, south-west of Ypres in Belgium, along with 572 others. He is in Plot II, Row C, Grave 15. He is commemorated on the memorial in St. Nicholas Church, Trellech; and at the Haileybury College Cloister Wall Memorial at Hertford Heath.



The pilots licence (Number 201) issued to A. E. Burchardt-Ashton.



The aircraft crashed by Alexander in 1912.

In Memory Of
Lance Corporal

A E BURCHARDT-ASHTON

Service Number: 8219

22nd, Royal Fusiliers who died on 11 July 1916

Remembered with Honour

LA LAITERIE MILITARY CEMETERY

II.C. 15.



|||||
COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES
|||||

COMMEMORATED IN PERPETUITY BY THE COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

L. Bosanquet. Sher. Fors.

Lieutenant-Colonel Lionel Arthur Bosanquet. 9th Battalion, Sherwood Foresters (Nottinghamshire & Derbyshire Regiment). Killed in Action 21st August 1915. Aged 53.

Born 29th January 1862 in Southgate, Hertfordshire. Son of Arthur Bosanquet (J.P. & Judge from the Bombay Presidency) & Isabella Matilda Bosanquet (nee Crawford) of Cleddon Hall. Siblings: Nora Louisa (b.1873); Lilian Isabel (b.1877); Arthur N.C. (b.1880). Arthur bought Cleddon Hall (then known as Ravenscroft) from Viscount Amberley (the father of British philosopher Bertram Russell) when the Bosanquet family returned from India in 1880. Arthur died in April 1885 and by 1891 his widow Isabella had moved to 27 Bath Road, Christchurch, Bournemouth whilst still retaining ownership of Cleddon Hall, but rented to Arthur Burchardt-Ashton. By the outbreak of war he moved to Llandogo Priory and Isabella returned to Cleddon Hall.

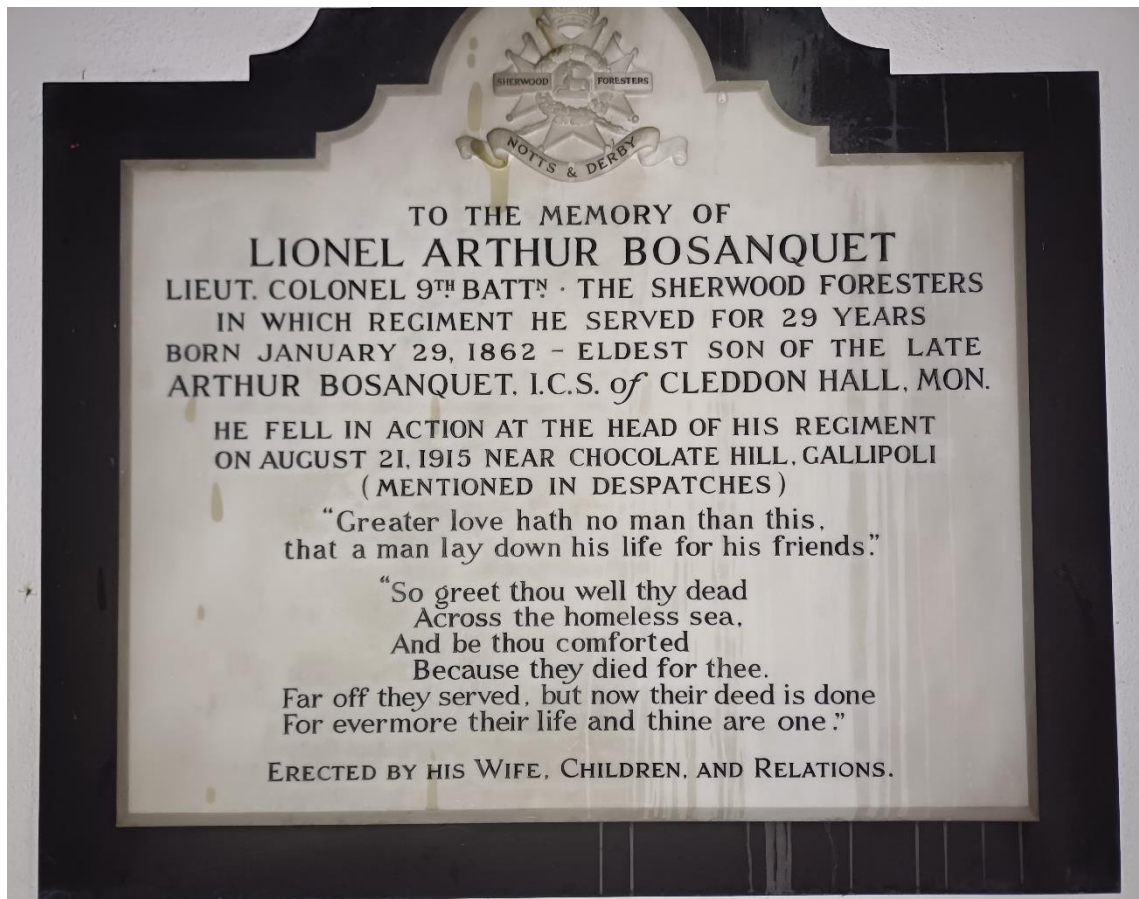
Lionel was educated at a private school in Ramsgate Kent whilst living with his grandfather at Royal Crescent, Ramsgate, then Harrow School, and finally at the Royal Military College at Sandhurst. He married Alice Emily Campbell-Colquhoun of Drayton Gardens, London in 1892 and had 2 daughters. He was gazetted into the Sherwood Foresters in 1883 serving in India. He was promoted to Captain in 1892, then to Major in 1903. Lionel retired from the army in 1911 but re-joined the regiment at the outbreak of WW1. When he re-joined he was living at 7 Springfield Place, Lansdown Road, Bath. He sailed to the Dardanelles in June 1915 as Colonel of the 9th (Service) Battalion which he had trained himself. In the finest traditions of the British army battalion Commanding Officers on Gallipoli led from the front, and often paid the ultimate price. 9th Sherwood Foresters landed on the Gallipoli peninsular of Turkey on August 6th 1915 and were in action by August 9th when Lionel was wounded. He quickly recovered and was leading his men again by August 18th.

Lionel was killed by machine-gun fire whilst leading his troops through 'Dead Man's Gully' near Chocolate Hill whilst attacking a Turkish redoubt at the northern end of Hetman Chair on August 21st 1915. He was 'Mentioned in Dispatches' for "*gallant and distinguished service in the field*". His body was found by another battalion, along with those of his men also killed in the same

assault. He was buried by those who found him but his grave was subsequently lost during further fighting. Consequently Lieutenant-Colonel Lionel Bosenquet is commemorated on the Helles Memorial at Gallipoli (panel 151) along with 20,956 other Commonwealth troops from the Gallipoli campaign who have no known grave. He is also commemorated on a plaque erected by his family at St. Oudoceus Church in Llandogo; at the Royal Memorial Chapel at RMA Sandhurst; at the Harrow School War Memorial; and also on the plaque in St. Nicholas Church, Trellech.



Colonel Lionel Arthur Bosenquet.
(Sherwood Foresters Roll of Honour)



The Bosanquet memorial in St Oudoceus Church, Llandogo.

In Memory Of
Lieutenant Colonel

LIONEL ARTHUR BOSANQUET

Mentioned in Despatches

9th Bn., Sherwood Foresters (Notts and Derby Regiment) who died on 22 August 1915

Remembered with Honour

HELLES MEMORIAL

Panel 151 to 153.



|||||
COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES
|||||

COMMEMORATED IN PERPETUITY BY THE COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

R.P. Brown

Gren. Gds.

Second-Lieutenant Richard Pearce Brown. 12th Battalion Durham Light Infantry, formerly Private 13928 Coldstream Guards. Killed in action 17th July 1916. Age 34.

Richard was born on 16th April 1882 at Thorganby Hall, Yorkshire to Reginald Pearce Brown (a land and estate agent) and Edith May Pearce Brown (nee Palmer), daughter of the rector of Escrick and later an Archdeacon. Richard's siblings were Reginald Thomas (b.1881) and Charles (b.1883). He was educated at Bedford Grammar School. In 1901 Richard was a bank clerk for the Doncaster branch of the London Joint Stock Bank and was boarding at 10 Royal Avenue, Doncaster. By 1911 Richard's father Reginald was living at 'Traligael' in Penalt/Whitebrook. He was a shareholder in Great Western Railways and later retired to 'The Lodge' Colyford, Devon soon after the outbreak of war. Richard was still single in 1911, still boarding in Doncaster, and still working at the bank.

At the outbreak of war in August 1914 Richard enlisted in the Coldstream Guards ranked as a Private, service number 13928. (There is no record of him being with the Grenadier Guards). However, he was soon commissioned as an officer, becoming a Second-Lieutenant (the starting rank of any newly commissioned officer) and gazetted to the Durham Light Infantry, where he joined 4th Battalion. This was a Service Battalion, one that trained-up new troops before posting them to operational battalions. Richard was attached to 12th Battalion where he seems to have joined them at Matringhem in France on May 12th 1916. The battalion was to be involved in the Battle of the Somme in the summer so they were moved to Picardy as part of 68th Brigade, 23rd Division.

On July 15th 1916 the battalion was in the town of Albert, which it left at 10am in order to move to Tara Trench on the left of the Bapume Road, where they remained overnight. The following day they advanced to relieve the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment who were holding the front-line trenches in front of the village of Pozieres. Relief commenced at 7.30pm. Two companies on the left of the position held the front-line trenches, whilst two companies on the right were in a series of posts or shell holes which were not connected-up. Patrols were sent out into no-mans-land at night to reconnoitre the positions, no enemy were encountered.

On 17th the battalion consolidated the original line amongst occasional shelling, but without the enemy disclosing the location of their machine-gun positions. At 5pm they were ordered to attack the enemy front at 8pm and to try and hold it against counter-attack. The attack took place as ordered but the supporting mortar fire fell short of the German line. As the battalion went forward intense German machine-gun fire, from 10 to 15 separate positions, tore into them. One of the four companies were only saved from annihilation by immediately lying in shell holes 30 yards in front of their own line where they remained until dark. The other three companies fought-on for about 45 minutes, one company almost reaching the German positions where they were held-up by German wire entanglements. The attack stalled and the troops took cover wherever it was available and awaited dark so they could retreat to their start line.

The abortive attack resulted in 6 officers killed with another 4 wounded. 27 other ranks were killed, 82 wounded, 16 were missing and 4 suffered shell shock. Richard was one of the officers killed in the attack. He is now buried in the Pozieres British Cemetery, Plot III, Row F, Grave 31. The cemetery is just in south of the village of Pozieres and in the area of the attack in which he was killed. His death was reported in the Western Mail on 26th July 1916. Richard is commemorated on the Bedford School Memorial Panel, on the Catbrook Memorial Hall plaque and also on the St Nicholas plaque.



Bedford School Memorial Plaque.



The CWGC headstone on the grave of Richard in Pozieres cemetery on the Somme, buried beside an unknown soldier of his regiment.

In Memory Of
Second Lieutenant

RICHARD PEARCE-BROWN

4th Bn. attd. 12th Bn., Durham Light Infantry who died on 17 July 1916 Age 34

Son of Reginald and Edith Pearce-Brown, of Colyford, Devon.

PEACE PERFECT PEACE

Remembered with Honour

POZIERES BRITISH CEMETERY, OVILLERS-LA BOISSELLE

III. F. 31 (Jt)



|||||
COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES
|||||

COMMEMORATED IN PERPETUITY BY THE COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

A.J. Davies. Lon R. Bde.

Alfred J. Davies. Service number: 302299. 2nd/5th Battalion, London Regiment (Post Office Rifles), London Rifle Brigade. Killed in Action 20th September 1917. Aged 24.

Alfred was born in 1894 in Pontypool, the second son of Thomas & Mary Ann Davies of 'The Old Shop', Trellech. Alfred's father Thomas was a grocer and the Trellech post master. Alfred's older brother, Thomas William Davies (Born 1/6/1886), died in Toronto Canada on February 7th 1912. There is a plaque in his memory on the chancel wall in St Nicholas church. His other siblings were: Laura (b.1898); Frederick (b.1900); Lillian (b.1903); Margaret (b.1907) and Ralph (b.1910).

Alfred was a Post Office Assistant and he acted as a sidesman during services at St. Nicholas Church. The 2nd/5th Battalion (Post Office Rifles), which was comprised of Post Office employees, spent the first few years of the war in training, mainly in Haywards Heath (Sussex), Norwick and Ipswich. They sailed for France and landed at Le Harve on January 25th 1917 as reinforcements. They were involved in helping force the German retreat to the Hindenburg line and then fought at Bullecourt, the Hindenburg Line, Menin Road (Ypres), Polygon Wood and then Passchendaele.

Alfred was shot and killed by a German sniper on 20th September 1917 aged 24. He has no known grave but is commemorated on the Menin Gate Memorial in Ypres (now Ieper) in Belgium, panel 54. He was one of 1,800 Post Office employees killed, another 4,500 were wounded, during the course of WW1. Alfred's name is one of 54,356 on the Menin Gate, those killed in the area of Belgian Flanders around Ypres who have no known grave.

Alfred is also commemorated on the metal plaque at the lych-gate of St. Nicholas Church, and on the Monmouth Post/Office Memorial by St. Mary's Church, as well as the memorial plaques inside St. Nicholas Church and Catbrook Memorial Hall.



The Post Office Rifles in the yard of King Edward Building (Post 56/6).

(The Postal Museum)

In Memory Of
Rifleman

ALFRED J. DAVIES

Service Number: 302299

2nd/5th Bn., London Regiment (London Rifle Brigade) who died on 20 September 1917 Age 24

Son of Thomas and M. A. Davies, of Trelleck, Chepstow, Mon.

Remembered with Honour

YPRES (MENIN GATE) MEMORIAL

Panel 54.



|||||
COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES
|||||

COMMEMORATED IN PERPETUITY BY THE COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

E.J. Davies MCG

Private Edward John Davies. Service number: 25126. 115th Company, Machine Gun Corps (Infantry). Died of wounds 2nd February 1917. Aged 20.

Born on 29th October 1897 in Brockwier as second child to Isaac and Margaret Davies. Usually just known as John, his siblings were: William (b.1896); Thomas (b.1901); Dorothy (b.1905); Florence (b.1908); and Howard (b.1911). Isaac was a farm bailiff so the family moved around a lot. In 1891 they were at Old Park Farm in Trellech; by 1897 they lived at Pant-glas Farm on the Llanishen Road, but when Edward was born they were in Brockwier; by 1901 they were at Home Farm in Wonastow; and by 1911 they were back in Trellech at Cross Farm.

The Monmouthshire Beacon of April 1893 stated that Isaac Davies was summoned under the new County Council Bylaws for driving a horse and trap without lights. He was fined 6s 6d.

Edward/John enlisted at Newport in the South Wales Borderers and was posted to 11th Battalion as Private 22068. He disembarked in France on December 4th 1915. The Machine Gun Corps was established in October 1915 to meet the demands of trench warfare by utilising both offensive and defensive fire support for the infantry. 115th Company, Machine Gun Corps (Infantry) was established on 19th May 1916 and became part of the 38th (Welsh) Division at which point Edward was transferred into it. He became Private 25126 and was listed as John Edward Davies. Not everyone in the MGC was a gunner, far more troops were required to feed the guns with ammunition than to actually fire them. The heavy Vickers machine guns required troops to carry the various parts when disassembled and to keep the gun supplied with belts of ammunition. The lighter Lewis guns required troops to carry the many spare magazines, which only held 47 rounds, as the rate of fire was over 500 rounds a minute.

In July 1916 115th Company, MCG were in action at Mametz Wood on the Somme, suffering severe casualties. The 38th (Welsh) Division suffered over 4000 casualties between 7th and 14th July 1916 in their capture of Mametz Wood. In August 1916 the division was deployed to the Ypres Salient in Belgium for rebuilding. It was used for consolidating trenches, whilst also carrying out raids on German positions in preparation for an attack on Pilckem Ridge. The machine

gun positions of both sides were an obvious target for each other. On February 2nd 1917 John/Edward was mortally wounded by enemy fire in the trenches near Elverdinghe Chateau. He is buried just to the north of Ypres (Ieper) in the small Ferme-Olivier Cemetery which was located near a large number of casualty dressing stations. He is located in Plot I, Row F, Grave 12, one of 410 men, mostly Welshmen, buried in the cemetery who died of wounds at the dressing stations.



The 38th (Welsh) Division memorial facing Mametz Wood on the Somme.

In Memory Of

Private

J E DAVIES

Service Number: 25126

115th Coy., Machine Gun Corps who died on 02 February 1917

Remembered with Honour

FERME-OLMIER CEMETERY

Plot 1. Row F. Grave 12.



|||||
COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES
|||||

COMMEMORATED IN PERPETUITY BY THE COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

Private Lewis Harold Elliott. Service number: 39857. 2nd Battalion, South Wales Borderers. Killed in Action 11th April 1918. Aged 23.

Harold (as he was known) was born on 21st March 1895 to Thomas and Harriet Elliott of Catbrook. Thomas was an agricultural labourer. Harold was baptised at St Nicholas church on 12th April 1895. His siblings were Louisa (b.1887); Rodah (b.1885); Elizabeth (b.1889); Margaret (b.1891); Gladys (b.1893); Winifred (Bessie) (b.1900); and Allan (b.1902). Harriet died not long after the birth of Allan as by 1911 Thomas was a widower still working on a Catbrook farm as a cowman, with Harold working as a farm labourer. All the children were schooled in Catbrook.

Harold enlisted in 2nd Battalion of the South Wales Borderers. When he became an active serviceman is unknown but the battalion served in China from August 1914, where they briefly fought against the German territory of Tsingtao. Having returned to the UK they then sailed once more from Avonmouth, this time to serve at Gallipoli in Turkey from April 1915 to January 1916, when they were evacuated. They then landed in Marseille in March 1916 to serve on the Western Front. 2nd Battalion SWB fought on the Somme in 1916; at the three Battles of the Scarpe during the Arras offensive in 1917; in Flanders in early 1918 especially at Langemark; then south again into France where they fought at Cambrai and the Battle of Estaires in April 1918.

In early April 1918 the battalion was holding the Bellvue line at Paschendaele where enemy shelling was causing daily casualties in the very wet weather. On April 10th they were transferred by bus transport to Oustersteene, then marched to Neuf Berquin, north-west of Lille. The situation upon their arrival, was that the enemy was in possession of the crossing over the River Lys and held both Estaires and Steenwercke. The British line was thinly held by exhausted troops. Orders were for the battalion to come up close behind the frontline, and if possible to retake Estaires. SWB took up positions on the left of the line with a force of 20 officers and 704 men.

At dawn the next morning the enemy attacked following a trench mortar barrage. The left flank of the frontline fell back over 200 yards leaving the

battalion exposed to enemy advances. The battalion HQ was taken by the enemy and in the resulting confusion some sections of the SWB fought to the last, whilst others fall back in the face of continued enemy advances. Fighting lasted all day, by dusk various parties of the battalion were collected and the battalion HQ reformed. By now only 3 officers and 140 men remained in total. The fighting continued resulting in further withdrawals the following day.

During the fighting here on April 11th 1918 Harold was one of the killed and one of the many who were not recovered. He is commemorated on panel 5 of the Ploegsteert Memorial to the missing in Hainaut, Belgium, some 12Kms south of Ypres. He is one of 11348 recorded as having no known grave from the fighting in the area during the First World War.

He is also commemorated on the Catbrook Memorial Hall plaque, as well as both of the ones at St Nicholas, Trellech.

In Memory Of

Private

HAROLD ELLIOTT

Service Number: 39857

2nd Bn., South Wales Borderers who died on 11 April 1918

Remembered with Honour

PLOEGSTEERT MEMORIAL

Panel 5.



|||||
COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES
|||||

COMMEMORATED IN PERPETUITY BY THE COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

S.A. Jones RE

Gunner Sidney Adam James. Service number: 8889. 249th Siege Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery. Killed in action 11th July 1917. Aged 27.

Sidney is listed as S.A. James on both the lych gate and Catbrook Hall memorials, but on the St Nicholas wall memorial he is S.A. Jones. All three list him as R.E. (Royal Engineers) whereas in fact he was RGA.

Sidney was born at Barn Hill near Coleford in 1891 to Abel and Eliza Maria James. His large number of siblings were: Thomas (b.1876); Richard (b.1878); Charles (b.1880); Amos (b.1882); Florence (b.1884); William (b.1887); Sarah (b.1889); Bert (b.1894); and Fred (b.1901). Abel was a woodcutter in the Forest of Dean, most of his male offspring were involved in either coal mining or forestry work once they left school.

In 1911 Sidney was a stone-cutter in the Coleford stone yard. In 1916 he married Annie Crockett and they lived at 'The Old Post Office' in Whitebrook.

Sidney was with the 249th Siege Battery of the Royal Garrison Artillery, a heavy howitzer unit, in July 1917 having been transferred from 156th Heavy Artillery Battery. 249th Siege Battery were part of the 53rd Heavy Artillery Group, Royal Garrison Artillery. RGA were responsible for the largest guns in the British military using equipment from the BL 9.2-inch howitzer to the 18-pounder field gun.

In the week of July 2nd to 9th July 1917 the HAG began a series of long artillery duels with the Germans in preparation for the Third Ypres offensive, known as the Battle of Passchendaele. The British targeted known German artillery positions, to which the Germans retaliated with counter-battery fire. Slowly the British got the upper hand and a large proportion of the German guns were out of action when the infantry attacked on July 31st.

It would seem as though Sidney was killed in one of the very early exchanges of battery fire. He was killed on July 11th 1917 and is buried in the Dickiebusch New Military Cemetery Extension in Belgium, Plot II, Row B, Grave 15.



An 8-inch MkV howitzer of Royal Garrison Artillery in action, May 1917.

In Memory Of

Gunner

S A JAMES

Service Number: 8889

249th Siege Bty., Royal Garrison Artillery who died on 11 July 1917 Age 27

Son of Abel and Eliza James, of Coleford, Glos.; hus band of Annie James, of Old Post Office, Whitebrook, Monmouth.

THY WILL BE DONE

Remembered with Honour

DICKEBUSCH NEW MILITARY CEMETERY EXTENSION

II. B. 15.



|||||
COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES
|||||

COMMEMORATED IN PERPETUITY BY THE COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

W. Howells. RN

Able Seaman, Richard William Howells. Service number: Z/691. Royal Navy Volunteer Reserve. '*HMS Indefatigable*'. Killed in Action 31st May 1916. Aged 24.

Known just as William he was born on 29th April 1892 to George and Mary Howells of Catbrook, where George worked as a woodcutter. A large family resulted in William having the following siblings: Thomas (b.1884); Clara Rose (b.1885); George (b.1888); Elizabeth (b.1891); Herbert (b.1897); Matthew Frank (b.1899); Violet (b.1902); Stanley (b.1904); and Else (b.1906). In 1901 George's mother-in-law Jane Hoskins (b.1841) was living with the family in Catbrook, as George's father, also a woodcutter, had lived with the family in 1891 as a widower.

William's mother Mary had died by 1911 leaving George a widower with seven children still at home. George junior and Herbert were working on the farm, whilst Elizabeth was acting as the housekeeper.

William joined the Royal Navy on April 7th 1915, giving his civilian occupation as a haulier. He did some basic training on HMS Victory, and was then posted to HMS Indefatigable on 30th August 1915. One wonders whether he was friends with William Tansill, who lived at Ashleigh Cottage on the corner of Beacon Lane, as they both joined-up in 1915, joined the Royal Navy and both served on 'HMS Indefatigable' a Royal Navy Battlecruiser launched in 1909.

During the Battle of Jutland in the North Sea, the largest naval battle of the First World War, HMS Indefatigable engaged the German Battlecruiser 'Von der Tann' at a range of 12,900 yards. The German ship hit the British one with a number of shells, one ripping open a hole in her hull. A second hit hurled pieces of Indefatigable 200 feet up into the air. Mortally wounded the ship fell out of formation and began sinking at the stern and listing to port. Indefatigable was then struck with more shells from Von der Tann at which point one of her magazines exploded which blew out her bottom. Von der Tann had fired a total of fifty-two 11-inch shells by the time Indefatigable broke in two and sank. Out of her crew of 1019 only 3 survived. William was one of the lost.

He is commemorated on the Plymouth Naval Memorial, on the plaque in the Catbrook Memorial Hall, and on both the plaques at St Nicholas Church Trellech.



HMS Indefatigable on the right nearest the camera.

In Memory Of
Able Seaman

RICHARD WILLIAM HOWELLS

Service Number: Wales/Z/691

H.M.S. "Indefatigable.", Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve who died on 31 May 1916 Age 24

Son of George Howells, of Calbrook, Tintern, Chepstow, Mbn.

Remembered with Honour
PLYMOUTH NAVAL MEMORIAL

19.



|||||
COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES
|||||

COMMEMORATED IN PERPETUITY BY THE COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

A. Kinsey. 1st Mons.

Rifleman Arthur Kinsey. Service number: 227795. 1st Battalion, Monmouthshire Regiment. Killed in action 29th September 1918. Aged 24.

Arthur was born on 31st July 1893 to Thomas and Ann Kinsey of 'Well Farm' Parkhouse, Trellech. Ann Knight was the widow of Daniel Knight, a farmer of Parkhouse Farm who had died aged 40 in April 1891 and been buried in St Nicholas churchyard. Consequently Arthur had a number of Knight step-sisters and a step-brother, as well as his own Kinsey siblings. In all they were Bessie Knight (b.1882); Wilfred Knight (b.1888); Hannah Knight (b.1887); Margaret Knight (b.1890); and then three Kinsey brothers Thomas (b.1893); William (b.1896); and Albert (b.1899). Arthur went to school in Catbrook.

At the outbreak of war Arthur enlisted in the Monmouthshire Regiment. He was given the service number 3551 and posted to 1st Battalion (Rifles). Their headquarters were at Stow Hill in Newport and they were part of the Welsh Border Brigade in the Welsh Division. As the number of volunteers increased the battalion was divided into three, Arthur moving to 1/1st Battalion. The 1st battalion was formed of eight companies one of which, 'E' Company, was from Chepstow based at the Drill Hall. Training took place in Oswestry, Northampton and Cambridge, before embarking for France where they landed at Le Harve on 13th February 1915.

They were deployed to Belgium with 84th Brigade in 28th Division and first saw action during the Second Battle of Ypres in May 1915 in the area of Frezenberg Ridge. During this battle on 8th May 1915 Newport suffered the greatest loss of any Welsh town in a single day during World War One when 515 men were lost. The Monmouthshires suffered such severe casualties during the fighting it resulted in the 1st (Newport), 2nd (Pontypool), and 3rd (Abergavenny) battalions being amalgamated into one on 27th May 1915. Arthur's Service number changed as a result and he was now Private 15061.

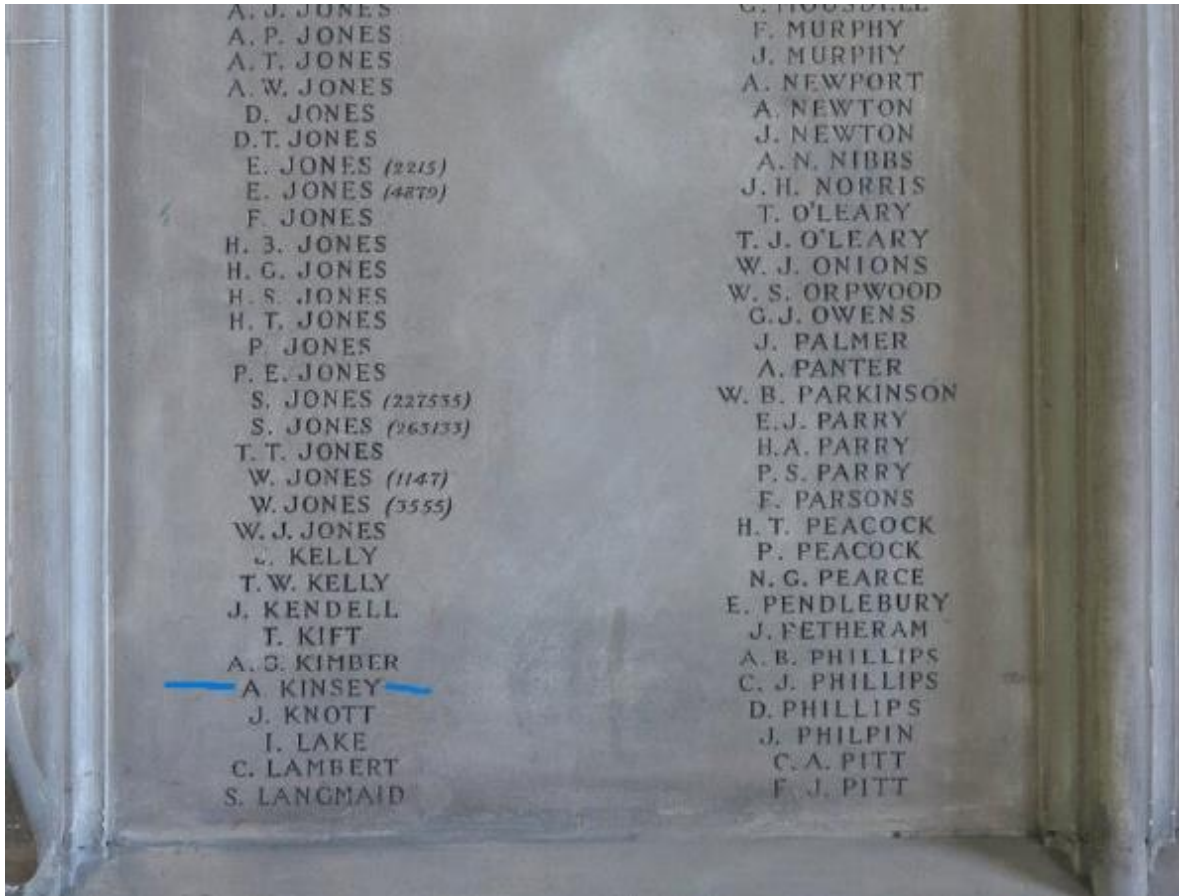
On August 11th 1915 after receiving reinforcements the battalion resumed its own identity with 1/1st Battalion Monmouthshire Regiment being transferred to the 46th (North Midland) Division as their pioneers. With many ex-miners in its ranks, like the other Monmouth battalions, it was well suited to the task of

carrying out support work at the front, and under fire, digging trenches, wiring, mining, keeping roads serviceable, and so on. While not involved in initial assaults, pioneers followed behind to consolidate newly-won positions, and, when their division was withdrawn for rest, they would often be kept hard at work just behind the front, and still under fire. On December 23rd 1915 they were ordered to proceed to Egypt via Marseilles. All units had arrived by 13th January 1916, but spent only a few days in Egypt before being ordered to return to France. The battalion was involved in the July 1916 battles fought at the Somme and Ancre, as well as the German retreat to the Hinderberg Line. Arthur was now Private 227795.

At some point during the last three months, the closing stages, of the war - known as the 'Late 100 days' and 'the advance to victory' – Arthur was presumably returned to the front as his designation changed from a Private to Rifleman 227795. The 1st Monmouthshires were involved in the fighting in the Aisne region of France during September 1918 during which Arthur was killed on the 29th. He has no known grave but he is commemorated on the Vis-en-Artois Memorial to the missing, Panel 10. He is one of 9816 commemorated there with no known grave who were lost in Picardy and Artois between August and November 1918.

Arthur's father Thomas predeceased him having died in Parkhouse aged 65 and was buried in St Nicholas churchyard on 14th March 1917. His brother died the year after him aged 25 also at Parkhouse. He too was buried at St Nicholas on 13th March 1919.

Apart from the Vis-en-Artois memorial Arthur is also commemorated on the Catbrook Memorial Hall plaque, the two plaques at St Nicholas, and also on the 1st Battalion Monmouthshire Regiment Memorial at St Woolos Cathedral in Newport. The 1st Battalion has a regimental memorial on the Frezenberg Ridge in Flanders, the scene of their 8th May 1915 battle. There are two more memorials of that day in Newport, one on the banks of the River Usk opposite the Blaina Wharf pub, with another at the old drill hall on Stow Hill – both of these unveiled on 8th May 2015 one hundred years to the day after the event.



Arthur named on the 1st Battalion, Monmouthshire Regiment Memorial in St Woolos Cathedral, Newport.



1st Monmouthshire Regiment departing for Northampton September 7th 1914.

In Memory Of

Rifleman

ARTHUR KINSEY

Service Number: 227795

1st Bn., Monmouthshire Regiment who died on 29 September 1918 Age 24

Son of Thomas and Ann Kinsey, of Well Farm, Park House, Trelleck, Chepstow.

Remembered with Honour

VIS-EN-ARTOIS MEMORIAL

Panel 10.



|||||
COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES
|||||

COMMEMORATED IN PERPETUITY BY THE COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

C. Morgan Gren. Gds.

Guardsman Private Charles Edward Morgan. Service number: 20988. 3rd Battalion, 4th Grenadier Guards. Killed in Action 8th October 1915. Aged 17.

Charles was born in 1898 at St George's Cardiff and baptised at St George's-Super-Ely, Cardiff on 29th May 1898. He was the last son of Richard and Emma Lavinia Morgan living at 'Box Cottage' Llanishen when he enlisted. Richard, born 1854 in West Dean, Gloucestershire was an itinerant worker with a large family. In 1881 he was a domestic butler living in Warminster, Wiltshire, on the edge of Salisbury Plain. In 1891 he was a carpenter living at English Bicknor, Gloucestershire. By 1901 he was the Estate Carpenter on the Coedriglan Estate (Welsh: Coedarhydyglyn) at St George's in west Cardiff. By 1911 he was a farmer living in Llanishen, with Emma listed as a shopkeeper. The family consisted of Adelaide Lavinia (b.1881 in Wiltshire); Percival (b.1883 in Wiltshire); Frances (b.1884 in Lydney, 'pupil teacher'); Earnest Harold (b.1886 in Lydney, 'domestic stable groom'); and finally Charles Edward born on the estate in St George's on the outskirts of Cardiff.

For Charles to have been killed aged 17 he must have lied about his age at enlistment. Under the Military Service Act of January 1916 all single males between the ages of 18 to 40 were liable for military service, but only those 19 or older could serve overseas. This was lowered to age 18 in April 1918 after the British Army suffered severe losses in the German spring offensive. Charles was killed in 1915 when aged 17, therefore he was an early volunteer and must have falsified his birth date, or found a sympathetic enlistment officer who did so on his behalf. Charles was admitted to the Queen Alexandra's Military Hospital at Millbank in London on 31st March 1915 suffering from German measles. His admission records list his age as 19, the age he must have claimed to be at enlistment.

The 3rd Battalion Grenadier Guards were based at Wellington Barracks in London. In August 1914, they landed in France on 27th July 1915 as part of the Guards Division who fought at the Battle of Loos. Charles disembarked on August 20th 1915, having recovered his fitness. The Loos battle involved the first use of gas by the British, which was largely unsuccessful, and it was also the battle where Rudyard Kipling lost his son John serving with the Irish Guards.

At around 4pm on October 8th 1915 the Germans launched an attack along the 2nd Guard Brigade's front-line, with most of the attack concentrating just south of the Hohenzollern Redoubt. Two companies of the 3rd Grenadiers were attacked from three sides along a communication trench running east and west of their positions in 'Big Willie Trench', forcing the surviving members of 3rd Grenadiers to withdraw back to 'Dump Trench'. By 7pm the line had been recovered and the Grenadiers were able to consolidate their positions. One of them, Sergeant Oliver Brooks, received a Victoria Cross for his actions in bombing (grenades) the Germans out of the captured British trench.

Charles was one of 452 men killed in the action that day. He has no known grave but is commemorated on the Loos Memorial to the missing, panels 5 to 7, which is at the rear of Dud Corner Cemetery, Loos-en-Gohelle, Lens, France. He is one of 20594 men with no known grave commemorated on the memorial who were lost in the battles of this area. The name "Dud Corner" is believed to be due to the large number of unexploded shells fired during the battle, an event that contributed to 'the shell crisis' in the United Kingdom manufacturing plants.

Charles is also on both of the Trellech memorial plaques, and on the Catbrook Memorial Hall one as well.



3rd Battalion, Grenadier Guards on Wimbledon Common in 1914.

In Memory Of

Private

CHARLES EDWARD MORGAN

Service Number: 20988

3rd Bn., Grenadier Guards who died on 08 October 1915 Age 17

Son of Richard and Emma Lavinia Morgan, of Box Cottage, Llanishen, Chepstow, Mon.

Remembered with Honour

LOOS MEMORIAL

Panel 5 to 7.



|||||
COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES
|||||

COMMEMORATED IN PERPETUITY BY THE COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

G. Morris SWB

Sergeant George Morris. Service number: 22394, 1st Battalion, South Wales Borderers. Killed in Action 10th November 1917. Aged 23.

Second son of William George and Mary Elizabeth Morris. George was born in 1894 at Botany Bay, Trellech and baptised in Llandogo on 14th September 1894. He was one of eight children, his siblings were Rose Hannah (b.1880); Whitmore (b.1891); Maud (b.1882); Mabel (b.1883); Edith (b.1885); Jeanette (b.1897); and Wilson (b.1901). By 1901 the family had moved to 'Cleddon Cottage' in Cleddon where William was employed as a domestic gardener. By 1911 William was a 'slaughtering butcher' whilst George had become a 'wooden hoop maker'.

George enlisted in the South Wales Borderers at Newport in 1914 at the outbreak of the First World War. George sailed from Southampton to Le Harve aboard the 'Gloucester Castle' as part of 1st Battalion SWB. He was part of a draft of 196 men who joined the battalion at Ypres in Belgium. On 26th September 1916 he was in trenches at Hulluch when the 1st Battalion attacked German positions into withering machine gun fire, resulting in over 200 being killed or wounded. George was one of those wounded and he was sent back to England for hospital treatment. In January 1917 George was part of a draft of 32 men who re-joined the battalion, and so he would have seen action in the German retreat to the Hindenburg Line and the Third Battle of Ypres.

At 5am on November 10th the 1st Battalion SWB attacked German pillboxes at Goudberg Copse, as part of the closing stages of the Third Battle of Ypres, better known as the Battle of Passchendaele, but were bombarded on three sides with a heavy German barrage of shells. George was killed in this attack having just been promoted from Corporal to Sergeant. This is a battle that became synonymous for mud, blood and futility. It is difficult to get exact figures but it is thought that the four months of the Passchendaele Battle, from July 31st to November 10th 1917 resulted in approximately 275,000 British; 38,000 Australian; 2500 New Zealand; 16,000 Canadian; and 220,000 German casualties, with approximately 42,000 never recovered, including George. The CWGC list George with the rank as Corporal, but his military records and his awards show his rank as a Sergeant, perhaps a promotion shortly before his death that didn't allow time to update his ID tags.

George Morris is commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial at Passchendaele, 7 miles north-east of Ypres (modern Ieper) in Belgium, (panel 65). He is one of 34,929 named on this memorial as having no known grave, which is just one of four such memorials around Ypres recording the names of those with no known grave. The Tyne Cot Memorial forms the north-western boundary of the Tyne Cot Cemetery which contains 11,961 graves of Commonwealth soldiers. George is also commemorated on the memorial in Catbrook Memorial Hall, as well as on the St Nicholas wall plaque in Trellech. George's older brother Whitmore was also a casualty, killed five months before George, but he is not recorded on either of the Trellech memorials for some reason.

Like all soldiers who died during the war George was entitled to service medals engraved with his name and number, and as a casualty his next of kin would receive a circular 'Death Plaque' commemorating his service. In July 2024 the medals and death plaque belonging to George Morris were sold at auction for £120 by Specialist Auction Services to a private collector.



The medals and Death Plaque for George Morris.

George's mother Mary Elizabeth died at Cleddon Cottage aged 64 just five years after she lost George. She was buried in the St Nicholas churchyard on 24th August 1922.

In Memory Of

Corporal

GEORGE MORRIS

Service Number: 22394

1st Bn., South Wales Borderers who died on 10 November 1917 Age 23

Son of William George and Mary Elizabeth Morris, of Cleddon Cottage, Trelleck, Chepstow, Mbn.

Remembered with Honour

TYNE COT MEMORIAL

Panel 65 to 66.



|||||
COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES
|||||

COMMEMORATED IN PERPETUITY BY THE COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

L. Parkyn 47 Can. Inf.

Private Lindon Collings Parkyn. Service Number: 629599. 47th Battalion Canadian Infantry Regiment. Died 10th March 1916. Age 42.

Born on 23rd December 1874, third son of Charles Collings Parkyn and Elizabeth Parkyn (nee Grigg). Charles was a 'coal and pitwood' merchant who lived at 5 Partridge Road, Roath in Cardiff during the latter part of the 19th century. Lindon's siblings were Elizabeth Susannah (b.1868); John (b.1870); Anne Blanch (b.1871); and Charles Grigg (b.1872). All the children were born in Cardiff, but Charles Collings had been born in Bawdrip, Somerset.

In 1899 Lindon's brother Charles Grigg joined the Royal Naval Reserve (service number: 31615) as an 'assistant engineer' and he sailed on various ships including 'HMS York' to such places as the Black Sea, Bilbao, New Orleans, Calcutta and to Rio de Janeiro (4 times). He married in Suffolk in September 1901, was commissioned to 'HMS Duke of Wellington' in July 1902. He then emigrated to Canada from Liverpool in 1909 as a 'farmer' going to live in Saskatchewan. Charles Collings had retired to St Maur, Uley, near Dursley in Gloucestershire by 1911, where Elizabeth died and was buried in October 1912.

Lindon was working as a clerk at a provision store in Gloucester Road, Bristol in 1901, but would appear to have joined his brother in Canada at some point in the early 20th century.

Records are sparse but the next time Lindon appears it is his enlistment into the 47th Overseas Battalion of the Canadian Expeditionary Force on November 3rd 1915, enlisting at New Westminster in British Columbia, giving his occupation as a labourer/book-keeper. He stated his previous military experience as 1 month service with the 104th Westminster Fusiliers of Canada, a militia regiment from BC which often acted as recruiters for the CEF. He was 5 foot 6 inches tall and unmarried. The force sailed for Europe on November 13th 1915. On December 31st 1915 Lindon married Ethel Florence Griffiths in Cheltenham, who gave her address as 'Wyecliffe' Cheltenham but on marriage lived at 'Henlease' College Road, Cheltenham.

Lindon was transferred to the 47th Battalion, Canadian Infantry (Western Ontario Regiment) but he caught influenza on the journey, or shortly thereafter.

Lindon was admitted to the military hospital at Bramshott at Liphook Hampshire on January 17th 1916, less than 3 weeks after his wedding, his influenza having developed into pneumonia. After a number of weeks in the hospital he died on March 10th 1916. He was buried the following week in the churchyard of St Nicholas in Trellech.

Why was he buried in Trellech? Well, at the time he died in 1916 Lindon's widowed father was living in Tutshill in Chepstow, along with Lindon's sister Elizabeth Susannah. However, his older sister Annie Blanch had died at Cleddon Villa (now Cleddon House) in 1897, and on 11th December 1897 she was buried in the churchyard of St Nicholas. The remaining family obviously thought Lindon's body should be brought back to Trellech to be buried next to his sister. His military headstone states his age as 39, whereas he actually would have been 42.

Lindon Collings Parkyn is commemorated on the Cheltenham War Memorial "Men of Cheltenham" as well as the wall plaque in St Nicholas, Trellech.

Lindon's father Charles Collings died in Tutshill the year after Lindon and he too was buried in the St Nicholas churchyard on 3rd January 1918.

As an aside, Charles Grigg also enlisted in the CEF and joined the Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force as an engineer, serving as a Lieutenant, service number: 255496. He survived the war and died in 1924.



The CWGC headstone on the grave of Lindon Parkyn.
St Nicholas churchyard, Trellech.



The grave beside that of Lindon Parkyn in the St Nicholas graveyard, his sister Annie who died at Cleddon Villa in 1897 aged 27.

In Memory Of

Private

L PARKYN

Service Number: 629599

47th Bn., Canadian Infantry who died on 10 March 1916 Age 39

Husband of Ethel F. Parkyn, of "Herleaze," College Rd., Cheltenham, England.

THY WILL BE DONE

Remembered with Honour

TRELLECK (ST. NICHOLAS) CHURCHYARD

In South part.

|||||
COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES
|||||

COMMEMORATED IN PERPETUITY BY THE COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

W. Reynolds M.G.C

Private Wilfred Reynolds. Service number: 137109. 52nd Battalion, Machine Gun Corps (Infantry). Killed in action 16th July 1918. Aged 19.

Wilfred was born on 25th March 1899, the eldest child of Thomas and Angelena Reynolds of 'Ivy Cottage' Llandogo Road, Cleddon. Thomas was employed as a woodman-feller. Wilfred's siblings were his two sisters Nora (b.1907) and Stella (b.1907). He was baptised in St Nicholas on 28th May 1899 and attended school at Catbrook along with his sister Nora. Angelena died before the outbreak of the First World War aged 38 and was buried in St Nicholas churchyard on 2nd June 1914.

The Machine Gun Corps was established in October 1915 to help meet the demands of trench warfare. They were responsible for offensive and defensive fire support, so were always a prime target for the enemy. During the First World War 170,000 officers and men belonged to the corps, of whom 62,000 became casualties, hence the nickname of the 'suicide squad'.

The 52nd MGC Battalion was formed of the 50th, 51st, and 52nd Machine Gun Companies. They disembarked at Le Harve on 9th February 1916 and joined the 52nd Infantry Brigade on February 12th at Reninghelst near Ypres in Belgium. On 28th April 1918 there was an amalgamation of further MG Companies into the Battalion which then took over a section of the front-line near Vimy on 6th May 1918, before moving in July to a line just north-east of Arras.

During July 15th/ 16th the battalion was in trenches near Les Tilleuls crossroads at the village of Maroeuil. During the day fifteen enemy aircraft were active over the area which was also under hostile shelling. A and B companies carried out harassing fire overnight which resulted in return enemy shellfire. During this exchange it would appear that Wilfred was killed. He was one of 1351 soldiers killed that day.

Wilfred was buried at the La Targette British Cemetery at Neuville-St Vaast, plot IV, Row A, Grave 13. He is one of 638 casualties buried there.

Wilfred is commemorated on the Catbrook Memorial Hall plaque as well as both plaques at St Nicholas Church.

In Memory Of

Private

W REYNOLDS

Service Number: 137109

52nd Bn., Machine Gun Corps (Infantry) who died on 16 July 1918 Age 19

Son of Thomas and Angelina Reynolds, of Ivy Cottage, Cleddon, Trelleck, Monmouth.

Remembered with Honour

LA TARGETTE BRITISH CEMETERY, NEUVILLE-ST. VAAST

IV. A. 13.



|||||
COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES
|||||

COMMEMORATED IN PERPETUITY BY THE COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

E. Richards Welch Reg.

Private Edgar Richards. Service number: 102021. 12th Battalion, Machine Gun Corps (Infantry). Killed in action 23rd August 1918. Aged 26.

Edgar was born on 12th May 1893 to Frederick and Mary Jane Richards (nee Williams) of Catbrook. For siblings he had just a younger sister Miriam (b.1898). Frederick was a farm labourer, a job that Edgar himself was employed in once he had finished his education at Catbrook School, which he attended from 1896.

Edgar joined the Welsh Regiment as Private 48987, but was later transferred to the Machine Gun Corps. On 22nd December 1917 Edgar was admitted to the 139th Field Ambulance hospital suffering from myalgia (muscle pain) but was discharged from them on December 27th.

In July 1918 the 12th Battalion MCG were involved in the Battle of Amiens, where the German 'spring offensive' was brought to a halt. From there the battalion took part in efforts to push the enemy back across the Somme and the scene of the 1916 battles. On July 22nd the battalion were fighting on the old Somme battlefields, capturing first Meaulte, just south of Albert, and then Mametz the scene of death for the Welsh regiments in July of 1916.

Somewhere between these two locations Edgar was killed in action. He is buried in the Meaulte Military Cemetery, Plot I, Row F, Grave 9. Another MCG Private is in the grave next to him, killed on the same day, presumably in the same action. There are a total of 311 buried in the cemetery mostly killed between the 22nd and the 24th of August 1918.

Meaulte is now the home of a modern Airbus manufacturing facility, where the nose sections and cockpits of all Airbus aircraft are manufactured.

Edgar is commemorated on the Catbrook Memorial Hall plaque as well as the two at St Nicholas Church.

In Memory Of

Private

E RICHARDS

Service Number: 102021

12th Bn., Machine Gun Corps (Infantry) who died on 23 August 1918

Remembered with Honour

MEAULTE MILITARY CEMETERY

F.9.



|||||
COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES
|||||

COMMEMORATED IN PERPETUITY BY THE COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

W. Tansill. R.N.

William John Tansill. Service number: K25416. Stoker 2nd Class. Royal Navy '*HMS Indefatigable*'. Killed in Action 31st May 1916. Aged 19.

Born on 13th March 1897 in Caldicot to John (a farm labourer & carter) and Mary Ann Carter. Siblings: Fred (b.1890); Frank (b.1896); Emily Eva (b.1901); Edward George (b.1903); Edith Decima (b.1905) & Margaret Sarah (b.1907).

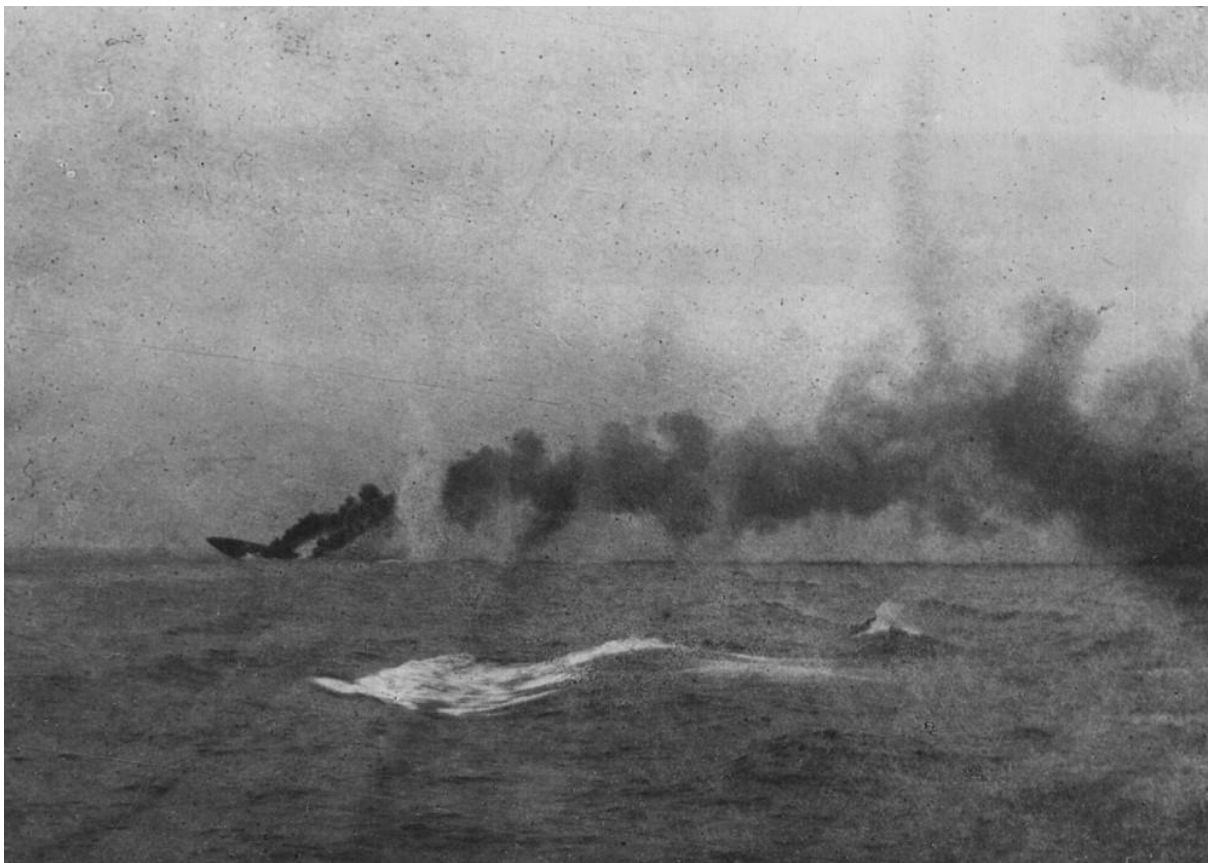
In 1901 the family lived at Old Llanishen on Far Hill, but by 1911 they were living at 'Ashleigh Cottage', Beacon Lane in Trellech.

William joined the Royal Navy at Devonport on April 11th 1915, giving his occupation as farm labourer. He was 5 foot 2 inches tall. He spent 2 months at 'HMS Vivid II' which was the 'Stokers and Engine Room Artificers School' at Devonport. On 25th June 1915 he was assigned to 'HMS Indefatigable' a Royal Navy Battlecruiser launched in 1909. During the Battle of Jutland in the North Sea, the largest naval battle of the First World War, HMS Indefatigable engaged the German Battlecruiser 'Von der Tann' at a range of 12,900 yards. The German ship hit the British one with a number of shells, one ripping open a hole in her hull. A second hit hurled pieces of Indefatigable 200 feet up into the air. Mortally wounded the ship fell out of formation and began sinking at the stern and listing to port. Indefatigable was struck with more shells from Von der Tann at which point one of her magazines exploded which blew out her bottom. Von der Tann had fired a total of fifty-two 11-inch shells by the time Indefatigable broke in two and sank. Out of her crew of 1019 only 3 survived.

William is commemorated on the Plymouth Naval Memorial, panel 16. He is also remembered on the Catbrook Memorial Hall plaque and both plaques at St Nicholas Church in Trellech.



HMS Indefatigable



HMS Indefatigable sinking having blown-up and split in two.

In Memory Of
Stoker 2nd Class

WILLIAM JOHN TANSILL

Service Number: K/25416

H.M.S. "Indefatigable.", Royal Navy who died on 31 May 1916 Age 19

Son of John and Mary Ann Tansill, of Ashleigh Cottage, Beacon Rd., Trelleck, Mon.

Remembered with Honour
PLYMOUTH NAVAL MEMORIAL

16.



|||||
COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES
|||||

COMMEMORATED IN PERPETUITY BY THE COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

W.S.C. Morgan. RASC

Private William Stanley Charles Morgan. Service number: 105547. Royal Army Service Corps – Expeditionary Force Institutions. Killed 17th June 1940. Aged 24.

William was born on 17th August 1916, the only son of Charles and Hannah Louise Morgan of Whitelye. William's siblings were his two older sisters, Edith May (b.1901) and Vera Lillian (b.1906). Charles was a general labourer employed by M. Moulton, a builder from Catbrook. In 1939 at the outbreak of war Charles and Hannah were living at 'The Firs' in Catbrook. None of their children were living with them at the time.

William served in the RASC/EFI who were the people running NAAFI canteens for the British Expeditionary Forces deployed in France at the outbreak of war. NAAFI canteens (Navy, Army, Air Force, Institutes) provided tea, food and support to the troops. During the 1940 'Battle of France' the EFI had nearly 3,000 personnel running 230 canteens in France. The British troops combatting the Germans had fought a fighting withdrawal towards the north coast of France, around Dunkirk and Bray Dunes, where over 300,000 would eventually be rescued. After France capitulated the British support services were ordered to head towards the west coast of France. Most RASC personnel were divided in to two groups for evacuation. One group headed by lorry to St Malo, near the Normandy-Britany border, the other group headed to St Nazaire on the Bay of Biscay coast. William was in this second group.

Upon arrival at St Nazaire the forces awaited evacuation. RMS HMT '*Lancastria*' arrived to take-on troops. In troopship configuration she was designed to carry 2180 passengers, but due to the chaos at the port, which was under attack by German bombers at the time, thousands of troops boarded the ship without being counted. An exact number of people on board is unknown but is thought to be in excess of 7,000.

The *Lancastria* sailed out in to the bay on 17th June 1940 and as it was turning it was attacked by German Junkers JU88 bombers from Kampfgeschwader 30. Three or four bombs hit the ship, one of which went straight down the ships single funnel and exploded in the engine room. Holds 2, 3 and 4 into which troops had been loaded were also hit. The ship sank in the bay within about 15

minutes. There were reports that German aircraft strafed survivors in the water. 2477 survived the sinking but the estimated dead accounted for almost a third of the total losses of the BEF in France during 1940.

News of the sinking was suppressed by Churchill for morale purposes. The wreck is now protected as a mass maritime grave by both the French Government and the British Ministry of Defence.

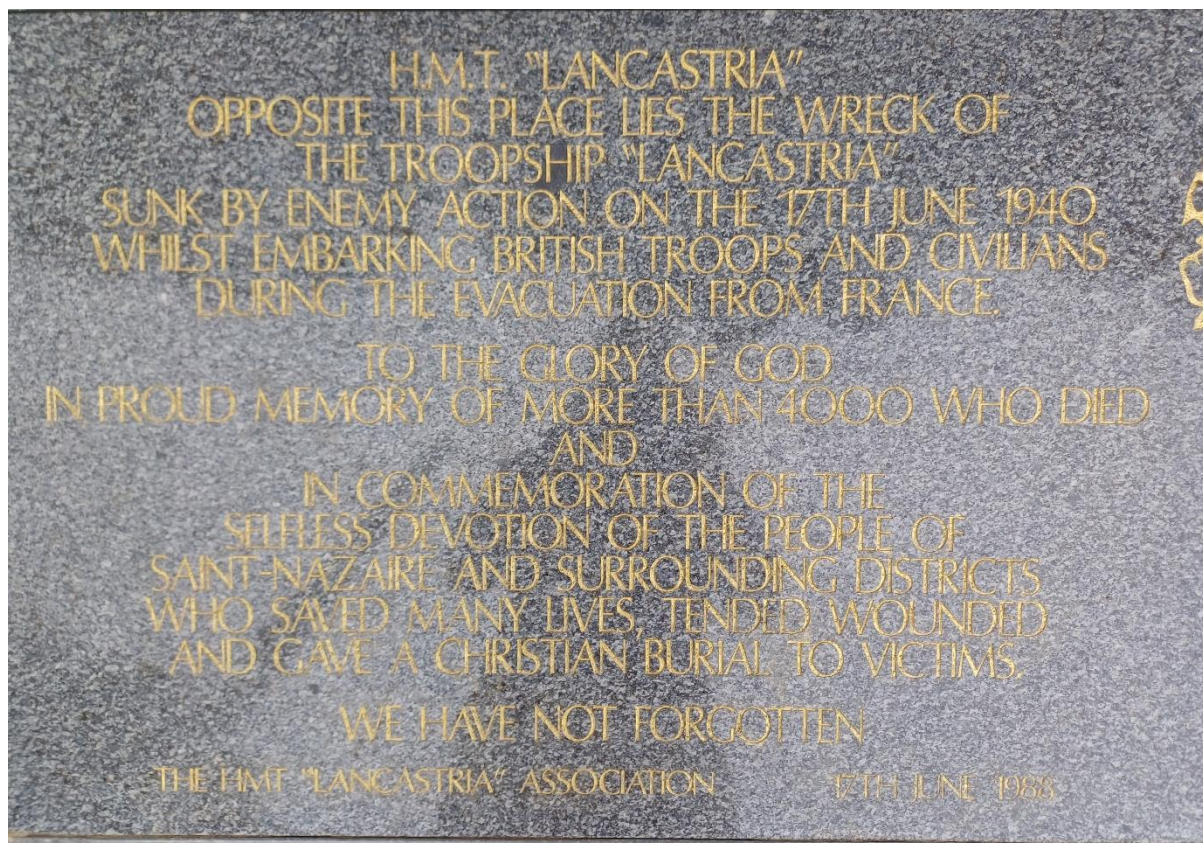
There are a number WW2 Commonwealth War Grave Commission cemeteries along the west coast of France around Saint Nazaire. This is due to French fishermen recovering bodies found in the Bay of Biscay from the Lancastria and taking them back to their home ports for burial.

William is buried in the civilian cemetery on the island of Noirmoutier just off the coast south-west of Nantes, a little to the north of St Nazaire. The Island is connected to the mainland by a road bridge. His grave is Row A, Grave 3 in the Noirmoutier-en-L'ile (L'Herbaudiere) Communal Cemetery in the Vendee Department of France. His headstone has an inscription from his parents which reads: *"To the world he was just a soldier, to us he was our all"*.

There are 40 victims of the Lancastria sinking in the cemetery, 22 of them are unidentified. It is estimated that the total death toll was between 5000 and 7000 personnel making it the largest single-ship loss of life in British maritime history.

One confusion is that his headstone records his rank as Private, whereas his military records record him as a Corporal. Perhaps he had recently been promoted and circumstances didn't allow time to sew chevrons onto his uniform or change his ID discs. Therefore when buried by the French they would have recorded his rank as seen on his ID tags.

William is commemorated on the Catbrook Memorial Hall plaque as well as the plaque inside St Nicholas. There is a memorial on the harbour front of St Nazaire to those who died in the incident, and another in Liverpool on the banks of the Mersey, the home port of Lancastria.



The Saint-Nazaire harbour front memorial.



The Liverpool Memorial.

In Memory Of

Private

WILLIAM STANLEY CHARLES MORGAN

Service Number: 105547

E.F.I., Royal Army Service Corps who died on 28 May 1940 Age 24

Son of Charles and Hannah Louisa Morgan, of White Ley, Chepstow, Monmouthshire.

TO THE WORLD HE WAS JUST A SOLDIER; TO US, HE WAS OUR ALL

Remembered with Honour

NOIRMOUTIER-EN-L'ILE (L'HERBAUDIÈRE) COMMUNAL CEMETERY

Row A Grave 3.



|||||
COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES
|||||

COMMEMORATED IN PERPETUITY BY THE COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

G. Reynolds

RAF

Leading Aircraftsman Geoffrey Reynolds. Service number: 1800770. Royal Air Force (Volunteer Reserve). Died 11th November 1942. Aged 28.

Geoffrey was born in 1914 to Henry William & Francis Muriel Reynolds (nee Grant) then living in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Geoffrey, nicknamed 'Patoruzu' after the famous Argentinian comic character created in 1928, had at least one brother Michael (b.1915), and possibly another named Hugh (b.1913). There are at least two embarkation records indicating that Geoffrey made the 40-day journey by sea between Argentina and the UK, one in November 1915 sailing from Liverpool to Buenos Aires, and another in 1931 when he sailed from London to Buenos Aires then aged 17, listed as a student with an address in Muswell Hill London. There are possibly two for his father as well, one in 1899 when he seems to have sailed from Newport to Argentina with his wife, and another in 1928.

Whatever the circumstances, Geoffrey enlisted in the Royal Air Force (Volunteer Reserve) and was posted to 18 Elementary Flying Training School at Fair Oaks Aerodrome at Chobham, near Woking. 18 EFTS was run by Universal Flying Services on behalf of the RAF. There they trained potential airmen pilots on the DeHavilland Tiger Moth biplane and the Avro Tutor aircraft, as well as repairing aircraft for the Ministry of Aircraft Production. Meanwhile his brother Michael also joined the RAF but as an air gunner with 106 Squadron flying Lancaster I aircraft from Syerston Airfield in Lincolnshire.

On November 10th 1942 Geoffrey was travelling as one of six passengers in an RAF tender lorry on the road between Sunningdale and Chobham. The road was narrow and the foggy weather limited visibility to about 15 yards. An army lorry driven by a RAOC driver coming the other way crashed into the RAF lorry. Geoffrey was taken to Botleys Hospital where he died the next day of his injuries. Geoffrey is buried in the Brookwood Military Cemetery in Surrey: Sector 23, Row A, Grave 9. He is one of 7049 buried there.

Michael, flying in Lancaster I serial R5574, was shot down on a raid to Munich the following month. Only the navigator survived to become a prisoner. Michael is buried near the old battlefields of Verdun.

Whilst Geoffrey is on the Trellech wall memorial plaque Michael is not. The family connection with Trellech is uncertain.

In Memory Of
Leading Aircraftman

GEOFFREY REYNOLDS

Service Number: 1800770

Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve who died on 11 November 1942 Age 28

Son of Henry William Reynolds and of Frances Muriel Reynolds (nee Grant), of Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Remembered with Honour

BROOKWOOD MILITARY CEMETERY

23. A 9.



|||||
COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES
|||||

COMMEMORATED IN PERPETUITY BY THE COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

L. Trueman T.A.N.S.

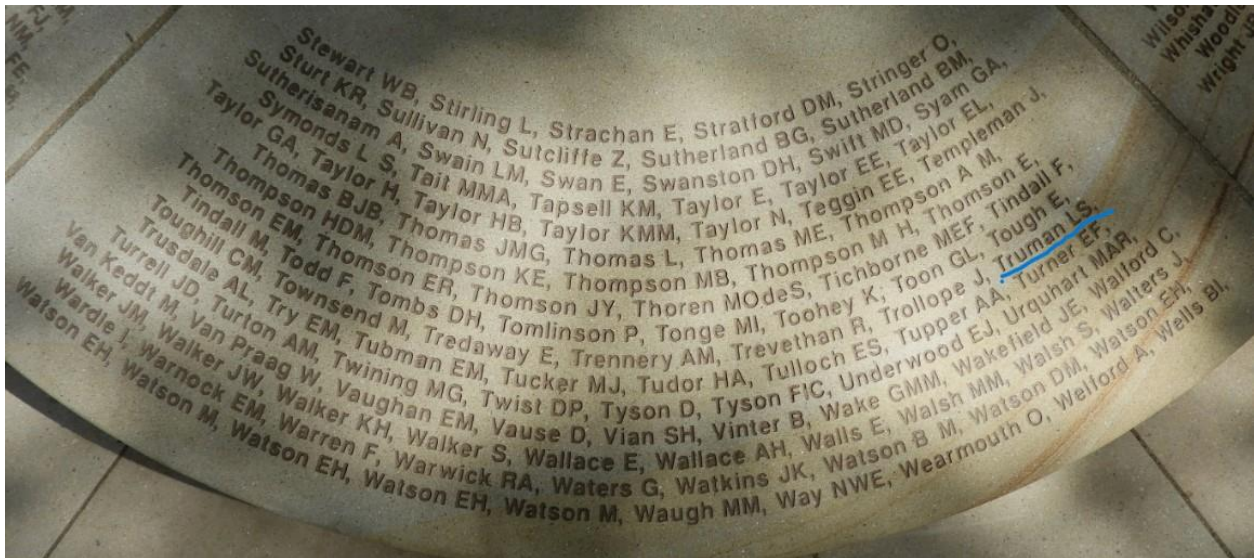
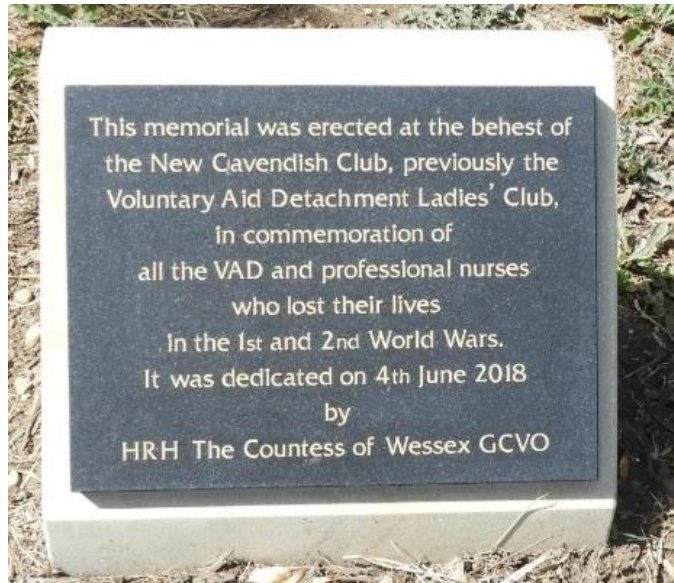
Nursing Sister Lilian Sarah Trueman. Service number: P/215623, Territorial Army Nursing Service. Died 10th October 1945 at Bologna Italy. Aged 46.

Lilian (Lily) was born right at the end of the 19th century, in the last couple of months of 1899. She was one of a number of children of William and Sarah (nee Evans) Trueman born whilst living at 'Rocklands' in Lugwardine, just east of the city of Hereford. Lilian's siblings were Mabel (b.1897); Dorothy (b.1899); Kathleen (b.1901); Greta Frances (b.1902); and Willie (b.1904). Her father was a man of private means who died early in the 20th century. In 1911 the family were living at 'Craiglas' in Llandogo, but by 1921 Sarah was widowed and living at 'The Croft' in Trellech with just Lilian and Greta at home. Greta was a school teacher.

At the outbreak of World War Two Sarah, Lilian and Greta were living at Trellech House Farm. Greta is still a school teacher, whereas Lilian is working at a First Aid Post for the Women's Voluntary Service.

Records of what happened to her next are sketchy but towards the end of the war she was in Bologna, presumably at 59th British General Hospital which was stationed in Bologna from the end of hostilities until September 1946. Lilian was reported to be dangerously ill on 9th October 1945. She died the following day and was buried in the Bologna War Cemetery in Plot III, Row C, Grave 1. She is one of 184 Commonwealth burials in the cemetery which was opened as a garrison cemetery in June 1945 after the liberation of Bologna from the German forces on April 21st 1945. Her headstone has a personal message from her mother: *'In proud and tender memory of Lily, so sunny and loving. Trellech, Monmouth'*.

Apart from the plaque in St Nicholas church, Lilian is also commemorated on the Wartime Nurses Memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire.



Lilian Sarah Trueman commemorated on the Wartime Nurses Memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum in Litchfield Staffordshire.

In Memory Of

Sister

LILIAN SARAH TRUMAN

Service Number: P/215613

Territorial Army Nursing Service who died on 10 October 1945 Age 46

Daughter of William and Sarah Truman.

IN PROUD AND TENDER MEMDRY OF LILY, SO SUNNY AND LOVING. TRELLECH, MONMOUTH

Remembered with Honour

BOLOGNA WAR CEMETERY

III, C, 1.



|||||
COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES
|||||

COMMEMORATED IN PERPETUITY BY THE COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

E.F. Tyler

R.A.F.O.

Squadron Leader Edward Frederick Tyler. Service number 70691. Pilot. Royal Air Force, Bomber Command. 12 Squadron. Killed in action 29th April 1943. Age 33.

Edward was born on 16th May 1910, youngest son of Hugh Griffin Tyler (born in Dixton, Monmouth) & Muriel Tyler. His siblings were George Ernest (b.1908) & Hugh William (b.1909). All 3 boys were born in Honiton, Devon and attended All Hallows School in Honiton. At the time of Edward's birth his father was listed as an assistant schoolmaster in Honiton, presumably at the school they attended. Shortly after 1911 Hugh was listed as living on 'private means' whilst he and the whole family were living at 'Cleddon House'. Hugh lived there until his death in 1953 when he was buried in St Nicholas churchyard.

In November 1936 Edward was married in London to Joan Winifred Lawson Adams of Kensington.

During World War Two Edward served with the Royal Air Force as a pilot with 12 Squadron, part of No.1 Group Bomber Command. Originally they flew in Vickers Wellington bombers, but converted to Avro Lancasters during the winter of 1942, based at RAF Wickenby Lincolnshire. Targets for 12 Squadron included Berlin, Munich, Nuremberg and Essen in Germany, along with mine-laying operations (codenamed 'gardening') in the Baltic Sea.

On the night of April 28th/29th 1943 Edward was piloting Lancaster III, Serial number LM313, markings PH-D. Their mission was a gardening operation to lay sea mines in the Geraniurms region of the Baltic Sea, between Gdynia and Gdansk in Poland. Ten aircraft from 12 Squadron took part in the raid. During the mission LM313 was coned in the searchlights of German Flakscheinwerfer Regiment 12, which allowed the radar controlled guns of 12/Flak Regiment 25 to accurately fire upon the aircraft, which then crashed at Kritzmow 5 kilometres south-west of Rostock killing all 7 crew. Their remains were recovered and buried by the Germans nearby.

Between 27th April and 3rd May 1943 12 Squadron lost five aircraft with all crews (a total of 35 men), with another aircraft so badly damaged it was scrapped upon its return and two of its crew invalided out of the war.

Edward Frederick Tyler's remains were moved after the war as the burials there were now in Russian occupied territory. They were concentrated in Western controlled areas. Edward is now buried at the Belin 1939-45 War Cemetery, Plot 8, Row B, Grave 37.



Avro Lancaster III, LM313, PH-D on operations.

In Memory Of
Squadron Leader

EDWARD FREDERICK TYLER

Service Number: 70691

12 Sqdn., Royal Air Force who died on 29 April 1943 Age 33

Son of Hugh Griffin Tyler, and of Muriel Tyler, of Trelleck, Monmouthshire; husband of Joan Tyler. B.A. (Oxon.).

EMERITUS

Remembered with Honour

BERLIN 1939-1945 WAR CEMETERY

8. B. 37.



|||||
COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES
|||||

COMMEMORATED IN PERPETUITY BY THE COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

D.J. Watkins **KSLI**

Private David John Watkins. Service Number: 4081321. 4th Battalion, (KSLI) Kings Shropshire Light Infantry. Died of wounds 16th April 1945. Aged 23.

David was born on 10th December 1921 to Mark and Lily G. Watkins (nee Lewis) of 'Grove Cottage' in Catbrook. Mark was a stone mason and bricklayer working for M.H. Mounton, builders of Catbrook. David's siblings included Ivy (b.1912); Phyllis (b.1913); Eileen (b.1915); and Albert (b.1924). Educated at Catbrook School, David joined his father as a bricklayer, whilst Albert worked for the forestry nurseries.

In World War Two 4th Battalion KSLI were part of 159th Infantry Brigade and acted as motorised infantry support to an armoured brigade. Having crossed the Rhine and entered Germany at the end of March 1945 the 4th KSLI were involved in the advance from the river Weser to the river Aller and the subsequent battle for the Essel bridgehead in early April 1945. This is just south-west of Hamburg, north-east of Hanover, near Bremen. By mid-April they were fighting near Winsen Aller/bannetze, just before the liberation of the Belsen concentration camp.

David Watkins was a vehicle driver. On April 15th 1945 he was driving a Jeep accompanied by a Captain Robert Eakin, one of the original territorial officers, across open heathland as 4th KSLI tried to reach Wietzendorf eight miles ahead before nightfall. Two Messerschmidt fighter aircraft appeared machine-gunning (strafing) and bombing the column of vehicles. A bomb landed beside the Jeep driven by David, killing Captain Eakin and mortally wounding David Watkins, who died of his wounds the following day.

Private David Watkins was buried in the Celle War Cemetery in Niedersachsen, Germany. Plot 1, Row A, Grave 3. He is one of 206 Commonwealth soldiers, plus 3 Poles, buried there, most of whom died in the last month of the war.

Apart from the plaque inside St Nicholas he is also commemorated on the Catbrook Memorial Hall plaque.

In Memory Of

Private

DAVID JOHN WATKINS

Service Number: 4081321

4th Bn., King's Shropshire Light Infantry who died on 16 April 1945 Age 23

Remembered with Honour

CELLE WAR CEMETERY

1. A. 3.



|||||
COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES
|||||

COMMEMORATED IN PERPETUITY BY THE COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

G. Crum R.N.V.R

Sub-Lieutenant George Edward Crum. Royal Navy Volunteer Reserve, Fleet Air Arm. '*HMS Saker*'. Killed 22nd June 1943. Aged 25.

Born on 27th August 1917, second son to Victor John (blacksmith and small holder) and Jane Crum of 'Spring Villa' Trellech. His grandfather (Victor's father) was Heber Crum, the inn keeper of the Lion Inn. George's sibling was Herbert Victor (b.1913). Jane was Victor's second wife. In 1908 he married Ethel Jane James but by 1911 he was listed as a widower. He remarried in 1912 to Jane Davies. He died in 1940 and was buried in St Nicholas churchyard on 20th February 1940, aged 56.

George joined the Birmingham City Police Force on 21st January 1937. As a single man he lived in the single men's quarters at the Police Station in Moseley Street, Birmingham serving as a Police Constable. He left the police in order to join the Royal Navy Fleet Air Arm on 15th December 1941, where he joined 848 Naval Air Squadron. They were sent to USA to train on American made aircraft in the torpedo, bomber and reconnaissance role. 848 NAS were based at RN Air Station Quonset Point on Rhode Island under the control of '*HMS Saker*', the collective name covering all Royal Naval personnel in the USA whatever their role. Any Royal Naval sailors bringing ships to America for repair or resupply; collecting ships under the lend/lease agreement; or like George training in the USA, were deemed to be attached to HMS Saker as it was that entity which handled their pay and records. Quonset Point was leased to the Royal Navy from October 1942 to train British Naval Squadrons equipped with American aircraft supplied under the Lend/Lease agreement. 848 was formed as a TBR single seat fighter squadron flying Corsair and Grumman Avenger aircraft in June 1943.

On 22nd June Sub-Lieutenant Crum was practising dive bombing over a target in Buzzards Bay just off the New England coast of Massachusetts in the Atlantic Ocean, between Martha's Vineyard and New Bedford. His Avenger 1 aircraft was last seen to enter a cloud bank diving on the target. Neither he nor his aircraft were ever seen again. He was 25 years old.

In addition to the Trellech memorial tablet, George is commemorated on the Lee-on-Solent naval memorial (Bay 4; Panel 6).

George had an elder cousin Cyril Crum, son of Victor's elder brother William from The Narth. Sapper Cyril Crum (b.1897 in Llandogo) died in the First World War with the Royal Engineers on 3rd November 1918, aged 22, one week before the armistice brought the fighting to an end.



George Edward Crum



George Edward Crum (indicated). 848 NAS.
(Photos: *West Midlands Police Museum*).

In Memory Of
Sub-Lieutenant

GEORGE EDWARD CRUM

H.M.S. Saker., Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve who died on 22 June 1943

Remembered with Honour

LEE-ON-SOLENT MEMORIAL

Bay 4, Panel 6.



|||||
COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES
|||||

COMMEMORATED IN PERPETUITY BY THE COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

I.D. Crockett

RAFVR

Aircraftsman Second-Class Ivor Douglas Crockett, Service Number: 1400474. Royal Air Force (Volunteer Reserve). 136 Squadron. Died 21st February 1942. Aged 22.

Ivor was born on 9th December 1920 to Charles & Lizzie Crockett (nee Tamplin) of (at the time) Botany Bay, Catbrook. Charles, born in Trellech, was a general and timber haulier. Ivor's siblings included Alfred James Cyril (b.1906); William Charles (b.1907); and Sydney Austin (b.1912). By 1939 the family, less Alfred who was married and living in Catbrook, were living in Whitelye where Ivor was working as a 'pit prop haulier'.

Ivor joined the R.A.F. (V.R.) as an air mechanic and served with 136th Squadron. They operated Hawker Hurricane aircraft, initially in India. During February 1942 following the Japanese attack on Burma 136 Squadron were sent to Burma and operated from Dum Dum Airfield in attacks against the Japanese. They were there for less than a month because by the end of February they had been withdrawn back to India.

During their short stay in Burma Ivor was fatally injured in a lorry collision and died in Rangoon hospital a few days later. He is commemorated on the Taukkyan Memorial in Yangon (formerly Rangoon) Myanmar (Burma). Ivor is 1 of 46 listed as having been buried elsewhere in Burma but whose graves could not be maintained. This memorial is situated in the Taukkyan War Cemetery which has 6374 Commonwealth burials, but also houses the Rangoon Memorial containing the names of 27,000 Commonwealth troops lost in the conflict but with no known grave, many of them from the infamous 'Death Railway'.

Ivor is commemorated on both the Trellech (St Nicholas) and Catbrook Memorial Hall plaques.

In Memory Of

Aircraftman 2nd Class

IVOR DOUGLAS CROCKETT

Service Number: 1400474

136 Sqdn., Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve who died on 21 February 1942

Remembered with Honour

TAUKKYAN MEMORIAL



|||||
COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES
|||||

COMMEMORATED IN PERPETUITY BY THE COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

B.T. Embrey **KSLI**

Corporal Bertram Thomas Embrey. Service number: 4031739. 1st Battalion, Kings Shropshire Light Infantry. Killed in Action 13th February 1944. Aged 27.

Born in the summer of 1916 in Bedwellty, Monmouthshire to Charles & Alice Eliza Reynolds (nee Phillips). Charles was a native of Herefordshire but was living at 'Pleasant View' in Parkhouse as a forestry worker at the outbreak of WW2. Bertram's siblings were Rhoda (b.1910); Florence (b.18911); Ernest (b.1913); Archibald (b.1918); and possibly also Annie (b.1900); Edith (b.1903); and Alice Christine (b.1906). Charles and Alice spent the rest of their lives in the Trellech parish, both being buried in the St Nicholas churchyard in 1950 and 1960 respectfully.

Bertram's war was with the 1st Battalion Kings Shropshire Light Infantry. 1st/KSLI were training in the UK following their evacuation from Dunkirk in 1940. They returned to active service in March 1943 when they landed in Algeria and took part in the North African campaign. From June 1943 they took part in the invasion of Italy as a part of the 1st Infantry Division.

After the allied landings in Italy in late 1943 the advance had been stalled by strong German opposition between Naples and Rome, in and around the town of Cassino. The British 1st Infantry Division was transferred to the American 6th Corps to participate in the amphibious landings at Anzio in an attempt to outflank the Germans and allow the capture of Rome. The landings codenamed 'Operation Shingle' were scheduled for 22nd January 1944.

The American commander Lieutenant-General Lucas was convinced that strong German reserves near Rome would immediately counter-attack the Anzio landings. Consequently he prioritised defence of the beach-head rather than attempt a rapid advance towards Rome, or relief of the Cassino bottleneck. Although the allied landings were initially unopposed, within days the Germans had indeed surrounded the landing beaches. On 30th January 1st/KSLI successfully advanced 1800 yards securing a feature known as the 'Railway Line'. Between the 2nd and 4th of February 1st/KSLI defeated a number of German attacks which included the use of MkIV Panzer tanks, but on the 4th they were

ordered to withdraw 2.5 miles towards the coast as they had been outflanked by other German attacks.

From the 8th to 15th the 1st/KSLI returned to the frontline near the railway and attacked a feature known as 'Buonriposo Ridge'. The attack failed resulting in 15 men killed, 8 wounded and 11 missing. They would lose a further 354 casualties the following week. Bertram was one of the 15 killed in this action.

Bertram is buried in the Anzio War Cemetery, Plot III, Row O, Grave 10. He is one of 1056 men buried there. He is also named on both the Trellech (St Nicholas) and Catbrook Memorial Hall plaques.



Mortar and anti-tank section of 1st KSLI in an Anzio trench, February/March 1944.

In Memory Of

Corporal

BERTRAM THOMAS EMBREY

Service Number: 4031739

1st Bn., King's Shropshire Light Infantry who died on 13 February 1944 Age 27

Son of Charles and Alice Embrey, of Trelleck, Monmouths hire.

FAREWELL, DEAR SON UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN. NEVER FORGOTTEN. MOM

Remembered with Honour

ANZIO WAR CEMETERY

III, O, 10.



|||||
COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES
|||||

COMMEMORATED IN PERPETUITY BY THE COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

J.E. Howells 2nd Mons

Private John Evan Howells. Service number: 14569660. 2nd Battalion, The Monmouthshire Regiment, South Wales Borderers. Killed in Action 25th February 1945. Aged 20.

Born 17th December 1917, second son of Matthew and Eleanor Howells (nee Jones) of 'The Duffryn' Catbrook. Matthew was a butcher, but also a surveyor and had a small repair shop. John's older sibling was Francis William (b.1922).

2nd Battalion Monmouthshire Regiment were a territorial battalion which formed part of the 160th Infantry Brigade of the 53rd (Welsh) Infantry Division. In the last year of the war they had entered Germany and were involved in heavy fighting resulting in over 300 casualties, before being withdrawn for a rest. From February 8th 1945 they took part in 'Operation Veritable', also known as the Battle of the Reichswald Forest.

The target of the 160th Infantry Brigade was to break through the German defences of the Siegfried Line, supported by tanks from the 34th Armoured Brigade, in the direction of Cleve. The 2nd Monmouthshires had a tough fight but took control of a key hill near the Stoppelberg high ground. The two week battle for the Reichswald Forest and penetration of the Siegfried Line cost the British and Canadian forces 8,500 killed and wounded. The Germans had over 11,700 captured with an equal number in casualties. However, the fighting was far from over as the Germans withdrew to defend the Rhineland.

Once the Reichswald had been taken the allied forces paused to regroup before continuing their advance towards the Hochwald forested ridge. 'Operation Blockbuster' commenced on 22nd February with the 53rd Welsh advancing south from Goch towards Weeze. John was killed on the third day of this action. He is buried in the Reichswald Forest War Cemetery in Kleve, Nord Rhein-westfalen, Plot 50, Row A, Grave 2. He is one of 7671 buried there. Apart from the Trellech plaque, John is also commemorated on the Catbrook Memorial Hall plaque.

In Memory Of

Private

JOHN EVAN HOWELLS

Service Number: 14569660

2nd Bn., Monmouthshire Regiment who died on 25 February 1945 Age 20

Son of Frank and Eleanor Howells, of Catbrook, Monmouthshire.

RESTING WHERE NO SHADOWS FALL R.I.P.

Remembered with Honour

REICHSWALD FOREST WAR CEMETERY

50. A. 2.



|||||
COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES
|||||

COMMEMORATED IN PERPETUITY BY THE COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

C. Hodges SWB

Private Charles Henry Hodges. Service number: 3913997. 6th Battalion, South Wales Borderers. Killed in Action 13th November 1944. Aged 31.

Charles was born 26th October 1913 to Arthur and Elizabeth Hodges (nee Hicks) of Catbrook. Arthur was a roadman labourer. Charles had the following siblings Dorothy (b.1906); Lewis (b.1909); Flossie (b.1910); and John (b.1912). Charles married Mary Cherrington in Chepstow in 1936 and they initially lived at 4 Rockwood Cottages in Chepstow where Charles worked as a general and asphalt worker.

Charles joined the 6th Battalion South Wales Borderers which was formed in July 1940 at Glanusk Park, consisting of men with almost no previous military training. They trained as an infantry regiment up until April 1942 when they converted to a tank regiment, becoming part of 158th Regiment Royal Armoured Corps (South Wales Borderers). They sailed to Bombay in October 1942 and trained in India until March 1943. At that point they reconverted to infantry and then trained as an amphibious assault unit. The battalion was moved to Calcutta in readiness to attack Akyab (the capital of Rakhine state now known as Sittwe) in Burma (Myanmar), but this attack was cancelled and the battalion was sent to Burma to fight as ordinary infantry in the Arakan district on the west coast of Burma.

Despite a somewhat chequered career and many disappointments the battalion proved its worth during hard fighting against the Japanese. The battalion fought many battles in the Burmese jungle against the Japanese and gained many accolades for its achievements. Tredegar Urban District Council had a casket of Burmese soil from an area of the Maya Hills which was renamed 'Tredegar Hill' as most of the SWB men killed there came from the Monmouthshire town.

In November 1944 6th Battalion SWB took-on the Japanese Army in a battle at Gyobin Chaung. During the attack the Japanese surrounded the companies of 6th Battalion SWB, supplies could not reach them, nor could the wounded be evacuated. Another company tried to rescue the trapped SWB men, launching attacks often firing from the hip. After heavy fighting the SWB troops managed to retire and were relieved.

In two weeks of fighting the South Wales Borderers suffered 157 casualties, but it had accounted for at least 150 Japanese killed. Charles was one of the killed South Wales Borderers. His body was recovered and he was buried in the Taukkyan War Cemetery in Myanmar (formerly Burma), now known as the Ktauk Kyant War Memorial Cemetery. He is in Plot 7, Row J, Grave 4. One of 6445 men buried there.

Charles is also commemorated on the Catbrook Memorial Hall plaque as well as the plaque on the wall of St Nicholas in Trellech.

In Memory Of

Private

CHARLES HENRY HODGES

Service Number: 3913997

6th Bn., South Wales Borderers who died on 13 November 1944 Age 31

Son of Arthur and Elizabeth Hodges; hus band of Mary Hodges, of Southend-on-Sea, Essex

WHEN THE GREAT CALL COMES, I'LL WALK BESIDE YOU TO THE LAND OF DREAMS

Remembered with Honour

TAUKKYAN WAR CEMETERY

7. J. 4.



|||||
COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES
|||||

COMMEMORATED IN PERPETUITY BY THE COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

There are two casualties, one from each of the two world wars, who are only listed on the Catbrook Memorial Hall plaque, but not on either of the Trellech plaques. They are as follows:

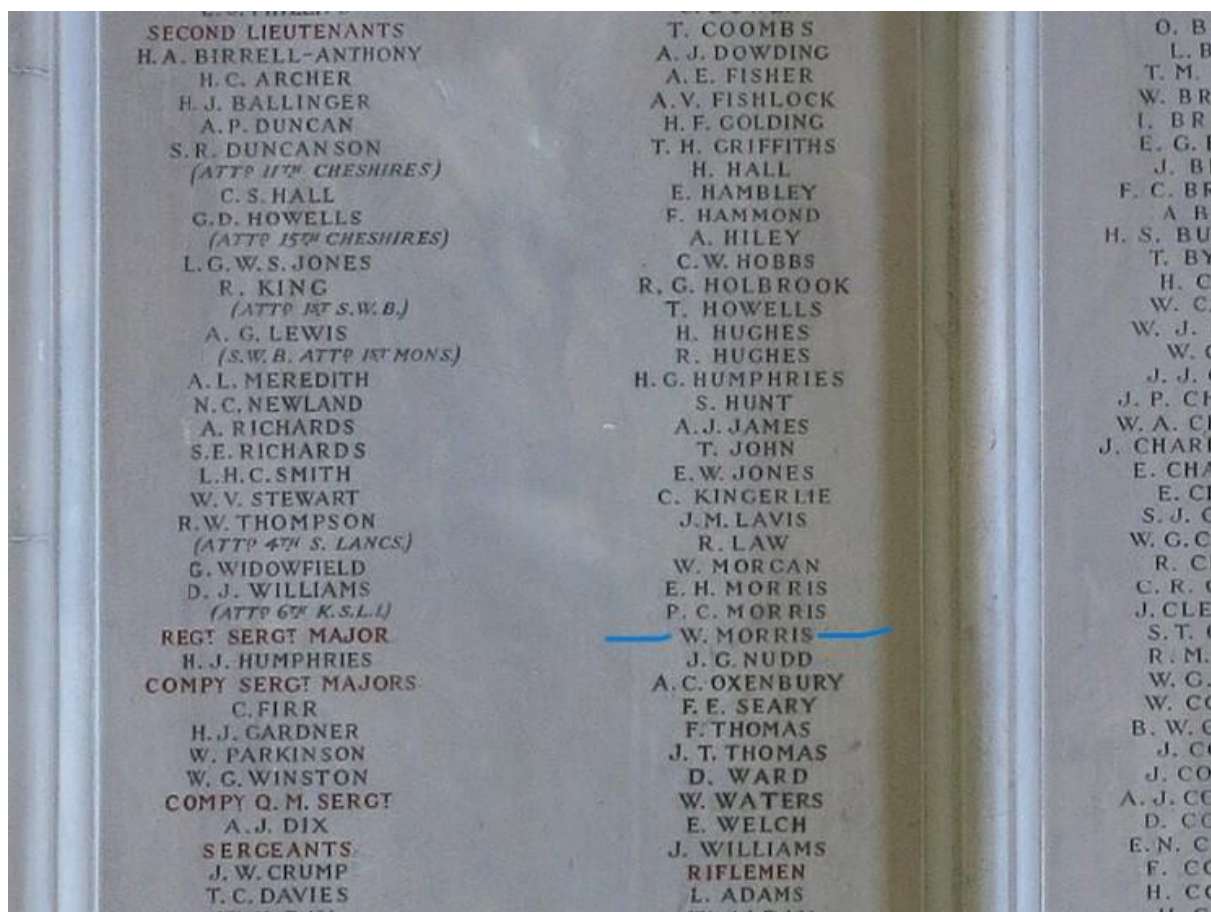
Lance-Corporal Whitmore Morris. Service number: 226527. 1st Battalion, The Monmouthshire Regiment. Died of wounds 22nd June 1917. Aged 26.

Whitmore was the older brother of George Morris, killed in 1917 with the South Wales Borderers and who is listed on all the memorials. Whitmore was born on 22nd March 1891 at Cecilyford, just before the family moved to Cleddon. In 1911 he was living with the family at 'Cleddon Cottage' with his occupation listed as a 'stationary engineman', that is he was operating a stationary steam engine in an industrial environment for powering machinery in either a mine or a sawmill.

Whitmore enlisted at Newport in the Monmouthshire Regiment where he was Private 3766 at the Infantry Base Depot. He was then posted to the 1st Battalion as Private 226527, where he would have been joined a little later by Arthur Kinsey and promoted to the rank of Lance-Corporal. On 18th July 1916 Whitmore married Blanch Elizabeth Leaf residing at 'The Tavern' in Llanvihangel Yestern LLewern north of Monmouth. Moving out of the parish may have been the reason he was 'missed' off the Trellech memorials.

In June 1917 the 1st Battalion, Monmouthshire Regiment were in the lines between Lievin and Lens, just south of Loos in France, where they took part in the fighting around Hill 65. On June 21st the Special Brigade, Royal Engineers carried out a gas bombardment of the German lines with hundreds of gas canisters prior to an infantry attack. Some of the projectiles fell into the British front-lines filling the trenches with phosgene, the deadliest of all gasses. It is unknown whether this or the subsequent infantry attack affected Whitmore, but either way he was mortally wounded and died the following day. He is buried in the Loos British Cemetery, Plot XIX, Row A, Grave 12.

He is commemorated on the Catbrook Memorial Hall plaque and also on the 1st Battalion Monmouthshire Regiment memorial at St Woolos Cathedral, Newport.



Whitmore Morris on the 1st Battalion Monmouthshire Regiment Memorial at St Woolos Cathedral in Newport.

In Memory Of
Lance Corporal

W MORRIS

Service Number: 226527

1st Bn., Monmouthshire Regiment who died on 22 June 1917 Age 26

Husband of B. E. Morris, of The Tavern, Llanvihangel, Abergavenny, Mon.

Remembered with Honour

LOOS BRITISH CEMETERY

XIX A. 12.



|||||
COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES
|||||

COMMEMORATED IN PERPETUITY BY THE COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

Lance-Corporal S.R. Sims. Service number: 2734256. 1st Battalion Welsh Guards. Killed in action 12th August 1944. Aged 26.

Stanley Robert Sims was born in the autumn of 1918 to William and Kate Sims (nee Porter) of 56 Trealaw Road, Trealaw, Rhondda. Stanley's siblings were: William George (b.1903); Herbert (b.1907); Marian (b.1910); Muriel (b.1912); Leslie (b.1914); Harry (b.1916); and Peggy (b.1920). William was listed as a 'bread salesman'.

In 1939 Kate, who was then widowed, was living in Llandogo with an address of Cleddon Great Hill along with four of her eight children. She lived there until her death in 1958 when she was buried in the St Nicholas churchyard. It is possible, but not confirmed, that Stanley married Marion Parker in 1941. However, what is known is that he enlisted in the Welsh Guards.

By the time of the Normandy landings in northern France Stanley had been promoted to the rank of Lance-Corporal. Along with the rest of 1st Battalion they landed in Normandy in June 1944 and through June and July fought hard to secure the beach-head and then eventually help to capture Caen and the surrounding during 'Operation Goodwood'. August saw the Welsh Guards fighting south of Caen and trying to close the 'gap' or 'pocket' near the town of Falaise, where German forces had been partially surrounded and were trying to escape east through the neck of the bag. The British tried to close the gap in fighting that lasted from August 12th to 21st.

In this action the Welsh Guards were ordered to capture Le Pont Esnault and then Montchamp at the far western end of the 'pocket', helping to squeeze the German forces towards the eastern end of the encirclement. Unfortunately the guards ran into a counter-attack by the 9th SS Panzer Division resulting in many men killed or wounded around the village of Le Bas Perrier. One of those killed was Stanley. He is now buried in the Bayeux War Cemetery where many of the British casualties were concentrated. He is in Plot XVI, Row E, Grave 19, one of 4654 buried in the cemetery.



1st Battalion Welsh Guards during Operation Goodwood near Cagny on 19th July.

In Memory Of
Lance Corporal

STANLEY ROBERT SIMS

Service Number: 2734256

1st Bn., Welsh Guards who died on 12 August 1944 Age 26

Son of William J. and Kate Sims, of Llandogo, Monmouths hire.

A DEARLY LOVED SON AND BROTHER WHO GAVE HIS LIFE THAT WE MIGHT LIVE

Remembered with Honour
BAYEUX WAR CEMETERY

XI. E. 19.



|||||
COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES
|||||

COMMEMORATED IN PERPETUITY BY THE COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

There is also one private memorial on the chancel wall of St Nicholas Church:



Second-Lieutenant Arthur Charles Rumsey. 1/9th Battalion, The London Regiment (Queen Victoria's Rifles). Killed in action 24th September 1916. Aged 28.

Arthur was born in Bengal, India in 1888. He was the son of Herbert and Elizabeth Anne Rumsey. Herbert was the son of Arthur, who in turn was the son of John Rumsey of Court Farm. Although a long family history in Trellech Arthur Charles never lived here, although he did marry Elizabeth Theresa Morgan at St Mary's in Abergavenny on 7th October 1913. Arthur Charles lived in Twickenham where he was a bank clerk before the war. He was gazetted as 2nd Lieutenant on 14th September 1915. The 1/9th Battalion QVR were fighting on the Somme in September 1916 in an effort to gain control of the village of Combles. He was buried in Citadel New Military Cemetery in Fricourt, Plot II, Row A, Grave 8.

Apart from the private memorial in St Nicholas he also had a widow commissioned in his honour at Christ Church, Highbury Grove, Highbury which was unveiled at Easter 1921 by his wife.

In Memory Of
Second Lieutenant

A C RUMSEY

9th Bn., London Regiment (Queen Victoria's Rifles) who died on 24 September 1916

Remembered with Honour

CITADEL NEW MILITARY CEMETERY, FRICOURT

II. A. 8.



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COMMONWEALTH
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COMMEMORATED IN PERPETUITY BY THE COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES COMMISSION