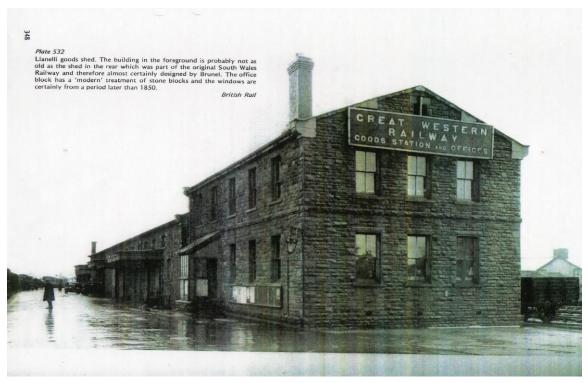
LLANELLI GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY THE GREAT WAR 1914-1918 MEMORIAL

The earliest railways in Llanelli were opened by the Llanelly Railway and Dock Company in 1834, mainly due to the needs of the coal industry, and over the coming years branch lines were extended to serve the Amman Valley and Llandeilo. As the years passed by lines opened to link Llanelli to all of its neighbouring towns and by 1873 the Great Western Railway had taken over the lines and work was underway to improve them. Many men who worked for the GWR at Llanelli volunteered to serve their country during the Great War, thirteen of whom died.



The Llanelli Goods Shed

Built in 1875 the Grade II-listed building played a key part in the Carmarthenshire town's industrial heritage. This derelict railway building in Llanelli is being saved from ruin by The Llanelli Railway Goods Shed Trust, a volunteering team of rail enthusiasts who have been granted planning permission to transform it into an arts centre and community hub.



THE GREAT WAR 1914 – 1918

The First World War began on 28th July 1914. Great Britain joined the conflict on 4th August 1914. A Peace Treaty was signed at Versailles, France on 28th June 1919.

In the four years of war, men from thirty eight countries around the world volunteered or were conscripted for war service. It is estimated that nearly 10 million died. Forty thousand came from Wales and among them thirteen young men from the Llanelli Great Western Railway.

They fought and died far away from the green hills and valleys of Carmarthenshire, the coal-smoke and noise of the factories and the tinplate works, the busy markets and shopping streets of Llanelli with its handsome chapels and bank buildings. They died for king and country in France and Belgium, in Mesopotamia and East Africa.

The wives, mothers and sisters who stayed at home fought their own battle on the Home Front. They worked long hours in the factories to make up for the shortage of male labour. They took on policing and teaching roles, became ambulance drivers, tram and bus conductresses.

Women organised concerts and tea parties to raise money for home comforts to send to men in the trenches. At Parc Howard and Stebonheath temporary convalescent homes, they nursed wounded servicemen back to health.

The fighting ended with an armistice at 11 o'clock on 11th November – the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month – in 1918.



GWR's Enlistment of Men

GWR men were eager and willing to answer the call to 'Join the Colours' and fight for their King and Country but few had ventured from these shores, let alone to fight. During 1914 some 4,048 men answered the call and month by month enlistment figures rose, reaching 8,466 by the end of October and at the beginning of December, the first reports of casualties among GWR men were publicised. Fifty eight killed, nine missing and 200 wounded prisoners of war.

Frank Potter, General Manager had announced at the outbreak of war that posts held by men who had joined the forces would be kept for their return wherever possible, or alternatives found, as optimism was that the war would be of a short duration.

Men's service pay was supplemented with separation allowances paid to wives and families, though limited by the Government to 10s per week for each family. It was also calculated, however that this should be supplemented to amount to four-fifths of men's regular weekly pay. Should the man be killed, this would continue to be paid for twenty six months after the notification of death.

The end of 2014 found the GWR in the position of having a rapidly depleting workforce and it looked to women to fill some of the vacancies, with retired employees called to return to their old posts.

In March 1915 Lord Kitchener made a request to the Executive Committee to compile a report to ascertain the minimum number of men required for the safe running of the railways due to the expectation of many more men being required to join the forces and, because of the never-ending demand for men, the Executive Committee approached the War Office to ensure that men were not removed without the permission of the Railway Company. The War Office agreed that to greatly deplete railway staff would jeopardise running the railways but insisted companies should assist in recruiting in any way they could.

GWR issued an official notice to staff:



NOTICE TO THE STAFF.

In connection with the raising of additional recruits for the Army, the Parliamentary Recruiting Committee are addressing to every householder a request for a return of male persons between 19 and 38 years of age who reside in his house and are willing to enlist for the period of the War.

In order to avoid misunderstanding, it is essential that any member of the staff who intimates willingness to enlist should also state clearly on the form that he is in the Railway Service, as Recruiting Officers are under instructions not to enlist in such cases without a certificate from the Railway company that permission has been given.

The opportunity is taken of explaining to the Staff that the reason for the caution which it has been felt necessary to exercise in this respect is that in the interest of the country it is of the utmost importance that the railway services should be maintained in a state of complete efficiency, not only to deal with the ordinary business, but also, and over and above that, to meet the special requirements of the military authorities.

FRANK POTTER

General

Manager

Paddington Station

23rd November, 1914

(Author's collection, from 'The Great Western Railway in The First World War'. (Sandra Gittins)



At the end of 1915 those GWR men who wanted to enlist had to apply for permission by filling in this card and then handing it to the recruiting officer. (GWR Magazine)

GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY						
The Bearer						
employed						
at as a						
in						
the ·····						
Department is						
authorised to enlist.						
Signature of Authorised Officer						
Railway Rank						
Address						

Once the men had attested, they returned to work, only to be called up with others of their own age group and after informing the Railway Company with whom the man was employed. These men were issued with an armband denoting their enlistment pending call up.

By October 1916 all the railways were obliged to release all single men under the age of 26, except shunters, firemen, signalmen and other skilled essential workers.

In March 2017 the War Office requested that Railway Companies release 20% of their staff of military age in reserved occupations and, of the 31,000 GWR men who qualified, the Company was only able to release 10%, the principle of releasing single men before married men no longer applied.



ROLL OF HONOUR RÔL ANRHYDEDD

Name	Grade/Dept./Loc	Age	Military Details	Death Date	Cem/Mem/Notes
Allen Harry Montague	Fireman/Loco/Llanelli	20	P/te. 15 th Welsh Regt	Dow 11/7/16	Heilly Station Cem
Carter William Charles	Boilersmiths Mate/L&C/Llanelli	36	L/Cpl 1 st R. Berks Regt	Dow 6/2/16	Chocques Mil Cem
Corbett Arthur	Fireman/Loco/Llanelli	20	Pte 2 nd Wilts Regt	KIA 23/2/15	Rue-David Mil Cem
Davies R.	Traffic/Llanelli	24	Pte Gren Gds	Dow 22/10/16	GWR Roll of Honour
Griffiths Ivor Monroe	Fireman/Loco/Llanelli	19	Pte 1/14 th Welsh Regt	Doi 28/10/15	Alexandria War Cem
Hall J.	Storeman/L&C/Llanelli Docks	22	Pte Glouce Rgt	KIA 21/6/16	GWR Mag 10/16
Harris William H.	Fitters Labour/L&C/Llanelli Dock	27	Spr Royal Eng	16/1/18	GWR Mag 11&12/17
Hodges DA	Clerk/Goods/Llanelli	23	Ord Seaman	03/6/19	GWR Mag 9/19
James James	Lad Porter/Goods/Llanelli	20	L/Cpl Royal War Rgt	KIA 30/6/16	GWR Mag 3&10/16
James Thomas Henry	Engine Cleaner/Loco/Llanelli	20	Rifm 8 th KRRC	Dow 5/8/15	Menin Gate Mem
Revell Harry	Fireman/Loco/Llanelli	23	Pte 9 th Devonshire Regt	KIA 30/9/15	Loos Mem
Thomas Edwin Isaac	Time & Storekeeper/L&C/Llanelli	27	Cpl 1/5 th Welsh Regt	KIA 3/11/17	Beersheba War Cem
William WA	Fireman/Loco/Llanelli	21	Pte Oxford & Buck Lgt Inf Reg	KIA 23/7/16	GWR Mag 1/18



TO THE MEMORY OF THE MEN WHO WORKED FOR THE GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY AT LLANELLI AND WHO FOUGHT AND DIED FOR THEIR COUNRY IN THE GREAT WAR 1914 – 1918

PTE HARRY M. ALLEN

PTE WILLIAM C. CARTER

PTE ARTHER CORBETT

PTE ROBERT T. DAVIES

PTE IVOR M. GRIFFITHS

PTE JOHN HALL

SAPPER WILLIAM H. HARRIES

OS DAVID A. HODGES

L/CPL JAMES JAMES

RFLM THOMAS H. JAMES

PTE HARRY REVELL

CPL EDWIN I. THOMAS

PTE WALTER A. WILLIAMS

"WE WILL REMEMBER THEM"

Presented by the Llanelli Town Council & the Llanelli Railway Goods Shed Trust





Harry Montague Allen, Private, 20965, Welsh Regiment. Harry was born in Prendergast, Haverfordwest, on 23 April 1896, the eldest son of Thomas and Edith Allen. The family later resided at 3, Glendale Terrace, Whitland. Thomas joined the Great Western Railway and became a Carpenter at the Llanelli Locomotive and Carriage Department. At the outbreak of War, He enlisted at Llanelli into the 15th Battalion, Welsh Regiment, which was known as the Carmarthen Pals Battalion. After training at Rhyl and Winchester, the battalion moved to France from 2 December 1915 attached to 114 Brigade, 38th (Welsh) Division. During the coming months the Battalion held nearly every section of the British line from Givenchy on the La Bassée Canal to Laventie, about six miles South of Armentières. At the end of May 1916, the Battalion moved South with the remainder of the 38th (Welsh) Division to the Somme area, in readiness for the First Battle of The Somme, which commenced on 1 July 1916. The 38th Division was tasked with the taking of the infamous Mametz Wood, and the Division made its first assault on 7 July 1916, suffering terrible casualties. After the sacking of their Commander, Sir Ivor Philipps, the Division made a renewed assault on 10 July 1915, and the Carmarthen Pals were thrown into action, and plunged into terrible fighting at the 'Hammerhead'. The wood was cleared with two days of terrible hand to hand fighting, but at the cost of over 5,000 casualties in the 38th (Welsh) Division. It was during the first attacks on the wood that Harry was shot in the chest by a German sniper, and brought back by rail to the 38th Casualty Clearing Station at Heilly, in the Somme valley. Harry died of his wounds on 11 July 1916, and is buried in Heilly Station Cemetery, France.



In Memory of Private

Harry Montague Allen

20965, 15th Bn., Welsh Regiment who died on 11 July 1916 Age 20

Son of Thomas and Edith E. Allen, of 3, Glendale Terrace, Whitland, Carmarthenshire.

Remembered with Honour Heilly Station Cemetery, Mericourt-L'abbe





Commemorated in perpetuity by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



The Inscription on Harry's Commonwealth War Graves Commission entry reads:

"When the Roll is called up yonder I'll be there"

William Charles Carter, Private, 8139, Royal Berkshire Regiment. William was born in Abingdon, Berkshire on 15 August 1888, the son of William and Lizzie Carter. He had served for several years with the Royal Berkshire Regiment before moving to Llanelly with his wife Mary after gaining a role as a Locomotive Boiler Smith's Mate at the Llanelli GWR Locomotive and Carriage Department on 17 February 1914. Following the outbreak of war he re-joined his old battalion, the 1st Battalion, Royal Berkshire Regiment, which was attached to 99 Brigade, 2nd Division. He landed in France on 20 September 1914, joining the battalion following its withdrawal from Mons to the Marne and moved with the battalion to Ypres. William saw heavy fighting with his battalion during the First and Second Battles of Ypres and in September 1915 took part in the Battle of Loos, remaining in the area over the winter. William was killed during a patrol near Le Quesnoy, in a section called Deadman's Trench, on 6 February 1916. He was 36 years old, and is buried in Chocques Military Cemetery, France.



In Memory of Lance Corporal

William Charles Carter

8139, 1st Bn., Royal Berkshire Regiment who died on 06 February 1916 Age 36

Husband of Mary J. Carter, of 16, St. John's St., Malmesbury, Wilts.

Remembered with Honour Chocques Military Cemetery



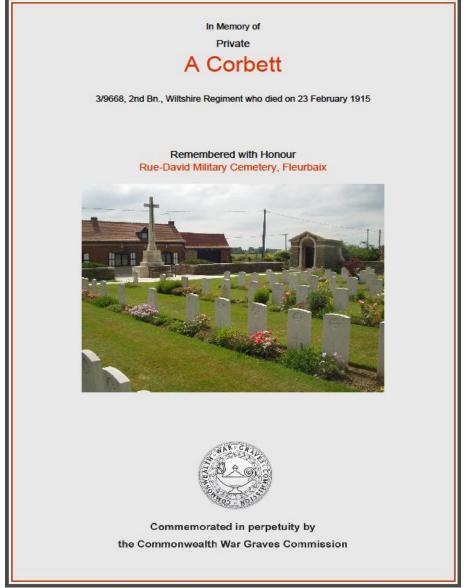


Commemorated in perpetuity by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Arthur Corbett, Private, 9668, Wiltshire Regiment. Arthur was born on 22 September 1894, the son of Henry and Marian Corbett, of 8, Albion Street, Swindon, Wilts. He was an army reservist and worked as a Locomotive Fireman at the Great Western Railway Locomotive and Carriage Department at Llanelli prior to the war. He returned home to reenlist into the 2nd Battalion, Wiltshire Regiment. The battalion was attached to 21 Brigade, 7th Division, and on 7 October 1914 landed at Zeebrugge, before moving to positions east of Ypres. After helping stop the German drive towards the Channel Coast at Ypres, the Division moved south to Fleurbaix. It was here, during a routine spell of trench warfare on 23 February 1915, that Arthur was killed, possibly when a German aircraft dropped a bomb which exploded near the battalion HQ. He was 20 years old, and is buried in Rue-David Military Cemetery, Fleurbaix, France.



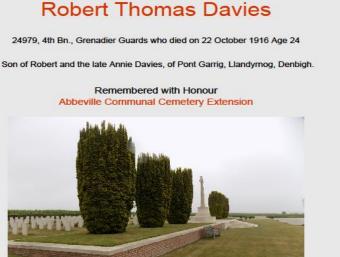


Thomas Robert Private. Davies, 24979, **Grenadier** Guards. Robert was born in Betchworth. Surrey in 1892, the son of Robert and Ann Bishop Davies. father was from Pont Llandyrnog, Garrig, Denbighshire, who travelled the had country during his work as a domestic coachman. Prior to the outbreak of war. Robert was working as a Parcel's Porter in the Traffic Department of Great Western the Railway Depot

Llanelli. He enlisted in London into the Grenadier Guards, and was posted to France in 1916, joining the 4th Battalion, Grenadier Guards, which was attached to 3rd Guards Brigade, Guards Division. In July 1916 the Division moved to the Somme and took part in the Battle of Flers-Courcelette, where tanks were used for the first time. During the last weeks of September 1916 the Guards Division was heavily involved in fighting during the Battle of Morval. Robert was wounded during this period and was evacuated by rail to No 1 South African General Hospital



at Abbeville, where he died of his wounds on 22 October 1916, aged 24. He is buried in Abbeville Communal Cemetery Extension, France.



In Memory of Private

The Inscription on Robert's Commonwealth War Graves Commission entry reads:

"Gone from our home but not our hearts but Lord it was thy will Dad & Evie" Griffiths IM



Commemorated in perpetuity by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Ivor Monroe Griffiths, Private, 2252, Welsh Regiment. Ivor was born on 10 February 1896, the son of John and Hannah Griffiths, of Dryslwyn House, Parcmain Street, Carmarthen. He worked as a Locomotive Fireman at the Great Western Railway Locomotive and Carriage Department at Llanelli prior to the war, and enlisted at Carmarthen into the 1/4th Battalion, Welsh Regiment, which was the local Territorial Battalion, attached to 159 Brigade, 53rd (Welsh) Division. The Division landed at Cape Helles, Gallipoli, on 9 August 1915, and was immediately thrown into action, spending the next few days in isolated pockets, fighting against a Turkish counter-attack during the Battle of Sari Bair, and then at the Attack on Scimitar Hill. Ivor became ill with enteric fever, and was brought by Hospital Ship to Alexandria, where he died on 28 October 1915, aged 19. He is buried in Alexandria (Chatby) Military and War Memorial Cemetery, Egypt.



Private I M Griffiths 2252, 1st/4th Bn., Welsh Regiment who died on 28 October 1915 Remembered with Honour Alexandria (Chatby) Military and War Memorial Cemetery Commemorated in perpetuity by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Hall, Private, John 4517. Gloucestershire Regiment. John was born on 29 September 1893. the son Thomas and Elizabeth of Tanyard, Hall, Winchcombe. worked as a Clerk in a Game Factory prior to coming to Llanelly on 2 September 1914 to work as a Fire Cleaner at the Great Western Railway Locomotive and Carriage Department and later became a Storesman. He enlisted in August 1915 into Gloucestershire

was

Regiment and posted to D Company, 2nd/5th Battalion, Gloucestershire Regiment, which was attached to 184 Brigade, 61st (South Midland) Division. John landed in France with his battalion on 23 May 1916, just weeks after marrying Matilda Banks. John was killed in action during one of his first tours in the trenches near Riez Bailleul on 21 June 1916, aged 22. He is buried in Royal Irish Rifles Graveyard, Laventie, France.



In Memory of

Private

John Hall

4517, "D" Coy. 2nd/5th Bn., Gloucestershire Regiment who died on 21 June 1916 Age 22

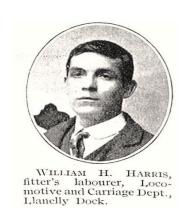
Son of Thomas and Elizabeth Hall; husband of Matilda Holmes (formerly Hall), of Alderton, Tewkesbury, Glos. Native of Winchcombe, Glos.

Remembered with Honour Royal Irish Rifles Graveyard, Laventie



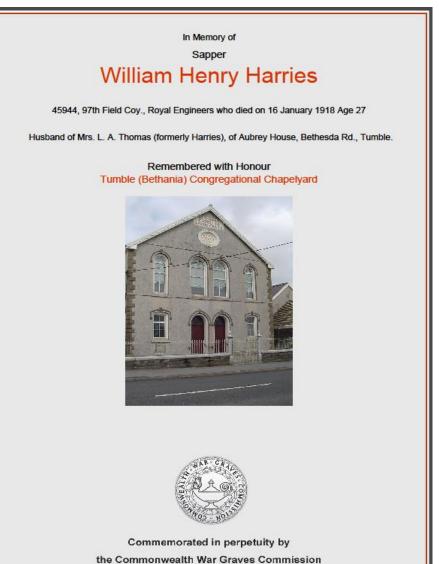


Commemorated in perpetuity by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



William Henry Harries, Sapper, 45944, Royal Engineers. William was born at Neath in 1890, the son of David and Margaret Harries. He married Lizzie Morgan early in 1912, and the couple set up home at Aubrey

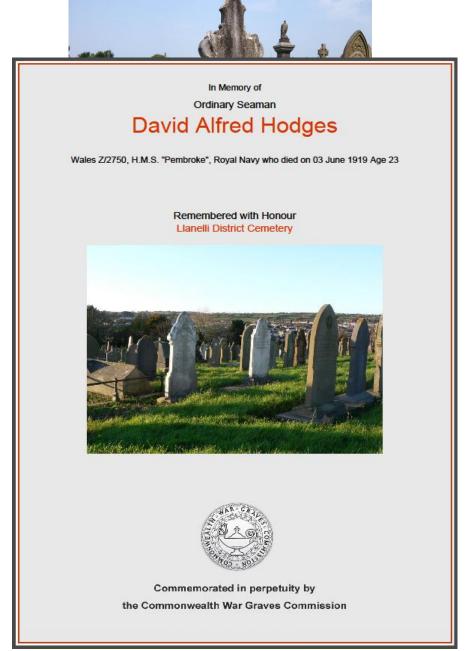
House, Bethesda Road, Tumble, where their son Frederick Lewis Harries was born on 16 November 1912. William worked as a Fitter's Labourer in the Locomotive and Carriage Department of the Great Western Railway at Llanelli. He enlisted at Tumble into the Royal Engineers. William landed in France on 11 September 1915, and served with the 97th Field Company, Royal Engineers, which was attached to the 21st Division. He saw service at Loos that month, on the Somme in 1917, then at Passchendaele in 1917. At some time, William became ill, and was evacuated to Britain for treatment for shell shock. Sadly, he died on 16 January 1918, aged 27, and is buried in Tumble (Bethania) Congregational Chapelyard.



David Alfred Hodges, Z/2750. **Ordinary** Seaman, Royal Naval Reserve. David was born on 17 February the of 1896, son Thomas and Mary Hodges, 41. of Robinson Street. Llanelli. He worked as a Clerk in the Goods Office of the Great Western Railway Llanelli prior to the war, and enlisted into the Royal Naval Reserve on 24 December 1915, training as a Wireless He Operator. was posted Milford to Haven. where he served as a Wireless Operator aboard HM Trawler Imelda, which



had been requisitioned by the Admiralty for use as a minesweeper. David survived the war, but died of tuberculosis on 3 June 1919, aged 23. He is buried with his parents at Box Cemetery, Llanelli. Following my research, his details were passed to the CWGC on 6 February 2013, and he has finally been accepted for commemoration by them on Friday 5 July 2013, after almost 94 years of being forgotten. David will be temporarily commemorated on the UK Book of Remembrance at Maidenhead, Berkshire, until the location of his grave can be verified.





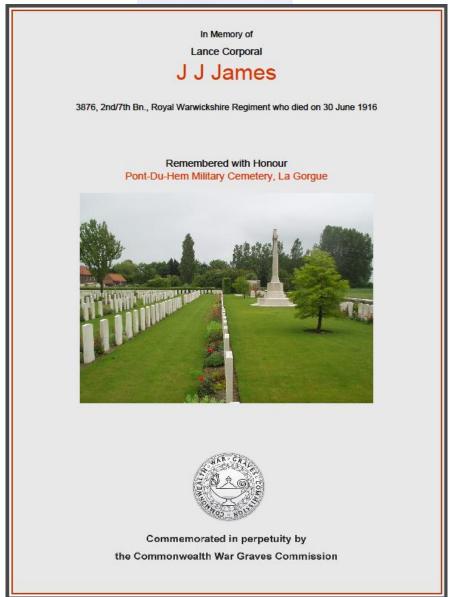
James James, who was 20 years of age, had been employed as a porter in the Goods Department at Llanelly, since November, 1010.

James James, Lance Corporal, **Royal Warwickshire** Regiment. James was the Grandson of and Sarah Robert James, of 20, High Llanelli. Street. 1910 he began working as a Porter in the Goods Department of the Great Western Railway, at Llanelli. He had served with the

4th Welsh, before being transferred into the 2/7th Battalion, Royal Warwickshire Regiment, which was attached to 182 Brigade, 61st (2nd



South Midland) Division. The Division landed in France on 21 May 1916, and moved to the Flanders sector, near Fromelles, where they took over the line held by the 38th Division. Here the Division was to take place in a combined attack with the 4th Australian Division, as a diversion to the main attack on the Somme, but it was a slaughter, with thousands of lives lost needlessly. James was killed just prior to this disastrous attack, on 30 June 1916. He was 20 years old, and is buried in Pont-Du-Hem Military Cemetery, La Gorgue, France.

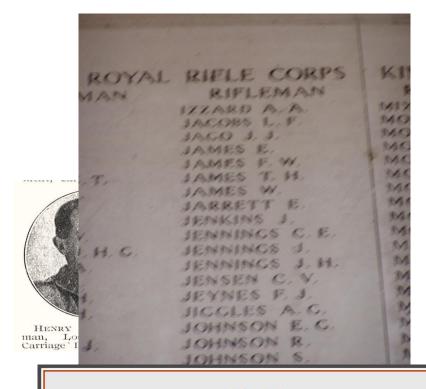


Thomas Henry Rifleman, James, A/186, Kings Royal Rifle Corps. Thomas was the son of John James, of Houghton Post Office, Neyland. He had worked as a **Engine** Locomotive Cleaner for the Great Western Railway Llanelli before the war. and enlisted at Llanelli into the Army. He was posted to the Battalion, Kings Royal Rifle Corps, which was attached to 41 Brigade, 14th (Light) Division. The Division was to action its first see during the Action of

Hooge, where the Division were the first to be attacked by the German use of flamethrowers. It was probably during this action that Thomas was wounded. He died of wounds on 5 August 1915, but sadly his grave was



lost during later fighting, and so he is commemorated on the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium. He was just 20 years old.



In Memory of Rifleman

Thomas Henry James

A/186, 8th Bn., King's Royal Rifle Corps who died on 05 August 1915 Age 20

Son of John James, of Houghton Post Office, Neyland, Pembrokeshire.

Remembered with Honour Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial





Commemorated in perpetuity by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Harry Revell, Private, 16085. Devonshire Regiment. Harry was the son of William and Lydia Revell, of Newton Abbott. Devon. He worked as a Locomotive Fireman. with the Locomotive Carriage and Department of the Great Western Railway at Llanelli. He enlisted at Llanelli into the 9th (Service) Battalion. Devonshire Regiment, which was attached to Brigade, 20 Division. The Division

landed at Zeebrugge on 6 October 1914, but the City was falling, and the Division moved to Ypres, where they became the first British Division to hold the city. They fought during the First Battle of Ypres, and helped stop the German advance through Belgium, and in March 1915 fought at the Battle of Neuve Chapelle. During May they fought at the Battle of Aubers Ridge, and at Festubert, before taking part in the Battle of Loos in September. Harry was killed at Loos on 30 September 1915, aged 21. He is commemorated on the Loos Memorial, France.





In Memory of

Private

Harry Revell

16085, 9th Bn., Devonshire Regiment who died on 30 September 1915

Remembered with Honour Loos Memorial





Commemorated in perpetuity by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission





Edwin Isaac Thomas, Corporal, 200457, Welsh Regiment. Edwin was the son of John and Mary Thomas, of 52, Little Water Street, Carmarthen. He lived at 75, Priory Street, Carmarthen, with his wife and two young children. Edwin worked as a Time and Storekeeper in the Locomotive and Carriage Department of the Great Western Railway at Llanelli prior to the war. He enlisted into the army, and served as a sergeant-instructor in a signalling section for several months, prior to going to Egypt in February 1917, where he joined the 1/5th Battalion, Welsh Regiment. The battalion was attached to 159 Brigade, 53rd (Welsh) Division, and was preparing for the advance into Palestine. Edwin was killed in action during the Third Battle of Gaza, on 3 November 1917. He was 27 years old, and is buried in Beersheba War Cemetery, Israel.



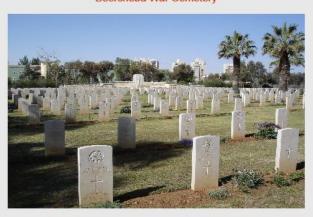
In Memory of Corporal

Edwin Isaac Thomas

200457, 1st/5th Bn., Welsh Regiment who died on 03 November 1917 Age 27

Son of John and Mary Thomas, of 52, Little Water St., Carmarthen

Remembered with Honour Beersheba War Cemetery





Commemorated in perpetuity by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

The Inscription on Walter's Commonwealth War Graves Commission entry reads:

"He died that all he loved might live"

Walter Alan Williams, 5241, Private, **Oxfordshire Buckinghamshire** Light Infantry. Walter was born in Hackney 28 November on 1895. By 1901 father had died and he lived with his mother, Mrs Annie Keeler, and her husband Charles Stephen Keeler, at 29, Bath Street. St.



Clements, Oxford. Walter originally worked for the Great Western Railway at Swindon, before becoming a Fireman in the Locomotive and Carriage Department of the Great Western Railway at Llanelli prior to the war. He 1st/4th Oxford into the Battalion, at enlisted Oxfordshire Buckinghamshire Light Infantry, which was attached to the South Midland Brigade in South Midland Division. On 30 March 1915 the battalion landed at Boulogne and six weeks later the formation became 145 Brigade, 48th (South Midland) Division. Walter was killed in action on the Somme, during the Battle of Pozieres on 23 July 1916, aged 21. He is buried in Pozieres British Cemetery, Ovillers-La Boisselle, France.



In Memory of

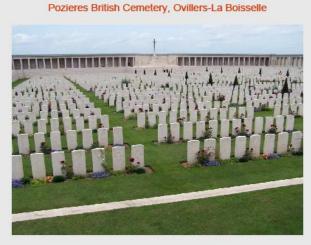
Private

Walter Alan Williams

5241, 1st/4th Bn., Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry who died on 23 July 1916 Age 21

Son of Mrs. Annie Keeler, of 29, Bath St., St. Clements, Oxford.

Remembered with Honour



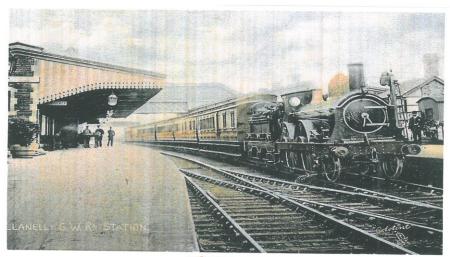


Commemorated in perpetuity by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission











(Robert Laurence Binyon)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Commonwealth War Graves Commission



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George Parker & Rosemarie Halford-Smith, Parker Plant Hire Ltd - Memorial Booklet

Revd Eldon Phillips - Memorial Service

Sponsor:

Parker Plant Hire Ltd., Llanelli



1914-1918

WE MUST NEVER FORGET WHAT THEY GAVE SO WE MAY LIVE. LET NOT THEIR DEATH BE IN VAIN





RHAID I NI BEIDIO BYTH AG ANGHOFIO'R HYN A ROESANT FELLY GALLWN FYW. PEIDIWCH A GADAIL I'W MARWOLIATH FOD YN OFER.

