THE GREAT WAR CENTENARY
1914-1918 2014-2018

LEST WE FORGET
REMEMBERED WITH PRIDE IN 2018
THOSE WHO DIED IN 1918 & 1919
First World War embroidered silk postcards
INTRODUCTION

This year marks the centenary of the Armistice between the Allies and Germany which brought the First World War to an end.

It was a terrible war which cost the lives of millions of people. It tore Europe apart and left a legacy which led to another world war just over twenty years later. Its effect can still be seen in the Middle East today.

Hundreds of policemen from our predecessor forces of Glamorgan, Cardiff, Swansea, Merthyr and Neath served in the armed forces during the war. Ninety three of them died. Many more were wounded, some of them seriously.

South Wales Police’s contribution to the commemoration of the centenary of the war was to establish a project to research the lives of those who died and those who were recognised for their gallantry. Each year since 2014 we have produced a booklet with the results of that research.

This year’s booklet, the last in our series, gives details of those who died during 1918 and 1919.

There are twenty of them in all. The inclusion of those from 1919 reminds us that the suffering didn’t end with the signing of the Armistice on 11th November 1918. Men were still dying of the effects of the war long after its conclusion.

However, we also pay tribute to those recognised for their bravery during the same period—nine of them are recorded in this booklet. We note, in particular, the actions of Ernest Rollings whose raid on a German Corps Headquarters at Framerville in France when he recovered secret German documents led, it was later said, to the war concluding earlier than it would otherwise have done, thus potentially saving hundreds of thousands of lives.

Ernest’s exploits won him fame and fortune in the 1930’s but we are equally proud of the endeavours of all those who served. We hope very much that our project and the booklets which have been produced are a fitting and lasting record of the sacrifices they made.

WE REMEMBER THEM ALL WITH PRIDE. YN ANGOF NI CHANT FOD.

Matt Jukes QPM
Chief Constable, South Wales Police
As the Chief Constable has indicated in his introduction, we have now reached the concluding booklet in our series commemorating the First World War. It is, therefore, an appropriate time for reflection.

The war posed tremendous challenges for the police service. It was the first time that the country had been mobilised for armed conflict on such a scale. The police forces of Glamorgan, Cardiff, Swansea, Merthyr and Neath, small by today’s standards, had to cope with carrying out a host of additional duties to ensure the security of the home front whilst at the same time their resources were severely depleted as policemen left to join the armed forces.

There is no doubt that they formed an important element in recruiting as they came from disciplined organisations and many of them were, of course, pre-war reservists who were called up on the outbreak of war.

Their contribution to the army in Wales can be seen, for example, in the 16th (Cardiff City) Battalion which fought with distinction on the Western Front including at Mametz Wood on the Somme and at the Third Battle of Ypres. A number of Glamorgan policemen were with it from the outset and we remember Fred Smith, a Glamorgan Police inspector who became the Battalion’s commanding officer prior to Mametz Wood, and the Welsh rugby international, Dick Thomas, who was killed in action there on 7th July 1916.

Policemen were also prominent in the Welsh Guards from the time of its formation in 1915 through to the end of the war. Many of them displayed leadership qualities and became non-commissioned officers. Others received medals for their bravery.

Our project has, since 2014, sought to tell the stories of those who died and those recognised for their gallantry. Ninety three policemen died-sixty one from Glamorgan, sixteen from Cardiff, ten from Swansea and six from Merthyr. Most of them are remembered on the Glamorgan Police War Memorial at Police Headquarters in Bridgend and on memorials at the Cardiff Bay, Swansea Central and Merthyr Police Stations. During our
research we identified a further three former policemen who are not recorded on the Glamorgan Memorial but who we have, nevertheless, remembered. Eighty eight of those who died have also now been commemorated by the placing of wreaths on memorials, or crosses on graves, in Wales, England, France and Belgium.

There were those as well who were wounded and survived the war, sometimes, despite their injuries, returning to police duties. In this respect it is worth remembering PC Richard Lawrence of the Glamorgan Constabulary. He had served in the Grenadier Guards before the war and was recalled to the army as a reservist in August 1914. He was severely wounded in the head during the early battles of the war resulting in the loss of an eye. Nevertheless, in February 1915, with the support of the Chief Constable and the Police Committee, he re-joined the force and resumed his policing duties.

As we bring our project to a close it’s appropriate to thank a number of people for their support. They include the members of the Project Group whose names appear on the cover of this booklet, Dr. Jonathan Hicks, Mr. Gwyn Prescott, Mrs Rhian Diggins of Glamorgan Archives, the South Wales Police Printing Department (especially Mr. Ian Oakley and Mr. Peter Williams) and many relatives of those policemen referred to in our booklets. It’s been a privilege to meet and correspond with them. We are particularly grateful for their assistance in providing photographs and other material. We have acknowledged their contribution in previous booklets and this year we are particularly grateful to Mr. Len Shurey for material in relation to Edward Shurey.

For me, being involved in this project has been a most rewarding experience. Each year at the South Wales Police Remembrance Service I have read out the names of those who died during the relevant year of the war. It is a very poignant moment. The visits made to the battlefields of the Western Front and to other places to remember the fallen have also been most memorable. My thanks for their support go to those who have accompanied me: Paul Wood, David Francis, Michael Lewis, John Knight, and Alan Fry. Without them the visits would not have been accomplished so successfully.
As in previous years two versions of this booklet are being produced: one as an electronic copy accessible via the following links:
www.peoplescollection.wales/users/9665 and www.south-wales.police.uk/en/about-us/heritage-centre/great-war-centenary/, and another, shorter version, in printed form, both of which are also available in Welsh.

We hope that the work we have undertaken throughout the project will provide a lasting legacy which will be of interest for many years to come.

Gareth Madge OBE
Chair, First World War Project Group

13th April 2018, St Edeyrn’s Church, Llanedeyrn, Cardiff: South Wales Police and the Welsh Guards remember PC 319 William Jones Thomas of the Glamorgan Constabulary (Private 1333 1st Battalion, Welsh Guards) who died on 13th April 1917 following active service on the Western Front.
1918

6TH FEBRUARY

The Representation of the People Act grants the vote to women over the age of 30 who meet a property qualification. The Act also gives the vote to all men over 21.

3RD MARCH

Russia signs a peace treaty with Germany.

21ST MARCH

Germany launches its Spring Offensive.

25TH MARCH

PC 51 John Pope of the Glamorgan Constabulary is killed in action near St. Quentin in France.

26TH MARCH


28TH MARCH

Ex PC 118 Thomas Churches of the Glamorgan Constabulary is killed in action near Arras in France.

1ST APRIL

The Royal Flying Corps and Royal Naval Air Service are brought together to form the Royal Air Force.

18TH APRIL

Military conscription in Britain is extended to cover most men aged between 18 and 51.

10TH MAY

PC 530 Charles Llewellyn James of the Glamorgan Constabulary is killed in action during an attack on Aveluy Wood in the Somme area.

25TH MAY

PC 558 Edward Findlay of the Glamorgan Constabulary is killed in action near Forceville on the Somme.

11TH JUNE

PC 223 George Wilfred Lloyd of the Glamorgan Constabulary is killed in action near Bethune in France.

15TH JUNE

In Italy the Second Battle of the Piave River begins and ultimately leads to the destruction of the Austro-Hungarian army and the collapse of their empire.
4TH JULY
PC 257 Albert John Channing of the Glamorgan Constabulary dies of pneumonia whilst on active service in France.

15TH JULY
The Second Battle of the Marne begins with a German offensive which is resisted by Allied forces and by its end the German army suffers huge losses.

18TH JULY
PC 616 Edward Shurey of the Glamorgan Constabulary dies following an accident during bombing practice in Ireland.

21ST JULY
PC 696 Sidney Walter Williams of the Glamorgan Constabulary dies of wounds whilst on active service in France.

8TH AUGUST
The start of the Battle of Amiens. Thousands of German troops surrender as Allied forces make substantial gains in territory. It is the beginning of the end for German forces—the final “Hundred Days” of the War.

British armoured cars near Amiens, 8th August 1918
30TH AUGUST

Police in London go on strike because of poor pay and conditions. The dispute is resolved the following day following the personal intervention of Prime Minister David Lloyd George.

4TH SEPTEMBER

PC 52 Richard William Brown of the Glamorgan Constabulary is killed in action near the Canal du Nord in France.

15TH SEPTEMBER

PC 150 Joseph Inman of the Swansea Borough Police is killed in action near the Canal du Nord.

19TH SEPTEMBER

PC 692 Frederick George Smith of the Glamorgan Constabulary is killed in action during the Battle of Doiran in Greece.

20TH SEPTEMBER

PC 617 Ernest Thomas Jones of the Glamorgan Constabulary is killed in action near Ronssoy in France.

27TH SEPTEMBER

An Allied offensive leads to the breaching of the German defensive structure, the Hindenburg Line, along the Canal du Nord and the St Quentin Canal.
PC 80 Edwin Samuel Brown of the Cardiff City Police is killed in action during the Battle of the Canal du Nord.

1ST OCTOBER

British and Arab forces take Damascus.

4TH OCTOBER

German and Austrian peace proposals are sent to the Americans.

8TH OCTOBER

The German army is driven back by the Allies along a twenty mile front between St. Quentin and Cambrai. The latter is captured along with Le Cateau. 10,000 German troops are taken prisoner.

14TH OCTOBER

PC 144 William James Rapsey of the Swansea Borough Police is killed in action near Ypres in Belgium.

17TH OCTOBER

Lille and Douai are liberated by the British. Ostend is retaken by Belgian forces as is Zeebrugge the following day. The whole of the Channel coast in the west of Flanders is liberated.

21ST OCTOBER

PC 46 Albert Hollyman of the Cardiff City Police dies of pneumonia at Etaples in France whilst on active service

30TH OCTOBER

Turkish forces in Mesopotamia surrender to the British. Turkey signs an armistice with the Allies.

3RD NOVEMBER

Austria-Hungary signs an armistice with the Allies.

9TH NOVEMBER

The German Kaiser, Wilhelm II, abdicates and flees to Holland.

11TH NOVEMBER

Germany signs an armistice with the Allies. All fighting is to cease at 11am that day.

14TH DECEMBER

PC 324 Frank Trott of the Glamorgan Constabulary dies of pneumonia at Porthcawl following active service in France.

14TH DECEMBER

British General Election in which the Coalition Government is returned to power with David Lloyd George continuing as Prime Minister.
1919

6TH JANUARY
PC Henry James Porter of the Cardiff City Police dies of pneumonia at Brighton following active service in France.

12TH JANUARY
The Paris Peace Conference begins.

10TH MARCH
PC 679 Henry George Evans of the Glamorgan Constabulary dies of pneumonia at Southampton following active service in France.

10TH MAY
PC 121 Patrick Shea of the Swansea Borough Police dies at Swansea of tuberculosis contracted during his war service.

28TH JUNE
The Peace Treaty between the Allied Powers and Germany is signed at the Palace of Versailles, near Paris.

19TH JULY
Peace Day: celebrations are held throughout Britain to mark the end of the war including a Victory Parade in London.
1918-1919 ⚪ GALLANTRY AWARDS

In our booklet for 1917, we remembered those who, in that year, had been recognised for their bravery and devotion to duty and we do the same in this booklet for those recognised in 1918 and also those whose awards were not made until the following year.

Whilst there were several categories of recognition for bravery and service during the War, we have limited what appears below to the awards of the Military Cross, the Distinguished Conduct Medal and the Military Medal. These are the ones for which, generally, the most information is available although it must be noted that the awards of the Military Medal were usually simply listed in the official Government publications, The London Gazette and The Edinburgh Gazette, without any detailed citations.

What follows is the best that we have been able to achieve through our researches but we hope that it will be a useful contribution to remembering the bravery of those referred to.

**MILITARY CROSS (MC)**
This was instituted in 1914 and awarded to warrant officers and junior commissioned officers of the Army for “gallant and distinguished service in action.”

**DISTINGUISHED CONDUCT MEDAL (DCM)**
This was instituted in 1854 as a result of the many acts of bravery during the Crimean War and was effectively the first British gallantry award. It was awarded to non officer ranks of the Army.

**MILITARY MEDAL (MM)**
This was instituted in March 1916 and was awarded to non officer ranks of the Army “for bravery in the field”. One of the first two recipients of the medal in April 1916 (backdated to 1914) was PC Frederick William Mallin of the Glamorgan Constabulary (see the South Wales Police booklet for 1916).
Ernest was born on 15th September 1893 in Hereford. He was the son of Ernest Thomas Rollings, who was from Heyop near Knighton in Radnorshire, and Emma Rollings (nee Gittings) who was also from Radnorshire having been born in Womaston, near Presteigne.

The family moved, in due course, to Knighton where Ernest attended school. At the time of the census of 1901 Ernest, his parents, and his younger sister, Mabel Evelyn, were living in Canton in Cardiff where Ernest’s father was a policeman with the City Police.

Later Ernest worked as a messenger boy in Knighton and at the time of the census of 1911 he was living in lodgings in Abertillery being then employed as a porter with the Great Western Railway.

On 28th July 1913, aged 19, Ernest joined the Glamorgan Constabulary and was serving at Caerau, near Maesteg, at the outbreak of the war.

Ernest was released from the police so that he could join the army and he enlisted on 11th November 1914.

He was posted as a Trooper to the 2nd Reserve Cavalry Regiment for basic training before he was to join the 2nd Dragoon Guards (the Queen’s Bays). He later said that he wanted to be in the cavalry because he thought he might become a mounted policeman after the war. In the event he did
not go on active service with the 2nd Dragoon Guards, which had been in France since the start of the war, but remained in England until 5th June 1915 when he transferred to the King’s Own Yorkshire Light Infantry.

Ernest went to France on 27th July 1915 with the 2nd Battalion of the regiment as Private 23336 and was appointed Lance Corporal on 25th September 1915.

In May 1916 Ernest successfully applied for a commission and joined the Number 5 Officer Cadet Battalion at Trinity College, Cambridge on 5th October 1916.

On 31st January 1917 he was appointed to a temporary commission as a Second Lieutenant in the Machine Gun Corps (Heavy Branch) which became the Tank Corps in July 1917.

He served with its C (later called 3rd) Battalion and took part in the Third Battle of Ypres which began in July 1917. As referred to in our booklet for 1917, Ernest was awarded the Military Cross for his actions in August during the Battle. The citation for it was:
“For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He commanded his tanks in difficult ground and under heavy shell fire with the greatest courage and perseverance, helping them out of many difficulties and keeping them in action by his splendid personal energy and fearlessness. After he had completed his duties, he went back to assist a seriously wounded officer and several men who were still under heavy shell fire.”

In November 1917 he took part in the massed tank action during the Battle of Cambrai.

In January 1918 Ernest returned to England to join the
17th Battalion of the Tank Corps which was originally to be issued with tanks but in the event received Austin armoured cars.

The Battalion moved to France and spent the month of May in training and then operated with French forces before it became part of General Sir Henry Rawlinson’s Fourth Army.

Ernest was promoted to Lieutenant on 31st July 1918 and on 8th August led his section of armoured cars in raids in support of Australian forces on the first day of the Battle of Amiens. This was the battle which was the start of “The Hundred Days” which ultimately led to the defeat of the German army.

One action during 8th August was, after the war, to bring Ernest great fame. During a raid on the village of Framerville, near Amiens, Ernest entered a German Corps Headquarters and took possession of secret maps, plans and other documents which he later took back and handed over to senior officers.

After the war, Ernest described what happened:

“I entered the building revolver in hand, wondering what sort of greeting I would receive. To my relief there was no sign of life… On entering the room I saw lots of papers, maps and office equipment. I collected all I could in the way of documents and maps and handed them to the men in the car outside who packed them in sandbags… Before leaving I did fix the Australian flag over the
headquarters….48 hours later the flag was still flying.”

For his actions that day Ernest was awarded a second Military Cross, the citation for which appeared in the London Gazette on 2nd December 1918:

“For conspicuous gallantry in command of a section of armoured cars during an attack. He took his section across the shelled area with skill and courage, and penetrated a village strongly held by the enemy, killing many of them and stampeding a quantity of transport. He sent back reports of great value, and finally extricated and brought back his cars without a casualty.”

However, Ernest was not to remain in France for much longer since at 9.30am on 21st August he sustained serious wounds to his head and back in action at Achiet-Le-Petit. He was taken to number 3 Casualty Clearing Station and the Red Cross Hospital at Boulogne before being evacuated to England.

Ernest marching immediately in front of the tank on the left in front of the Cenotaph during the Victory Parade on 19th July 1919
Ernest was treated at the 2nd Western General Hospital in Manchester and later convalesced at the St John’s Auxiliary Hospital at Llandaff in Cardiff.

He spent several months recovering from his injuries and in 1919 returned to the 17th Battalion which was then in Ireland during the time of the unrest there.

Ernest had the honour of taking part in the Victory Parade in London to mark the end of the war which was held on 19th July 1919 when he led a column of tanks.

He was released from military service on 13th January 1920 and subsequently re-joined the Glamorgan Constabulary serving at Ystalyfera and Gwaun-cae-Gurwen in the Swansea Valley.

He was stationed at Briton Ferry near Neath when, in November 1922, it became part of the Borough of Neath as a result of changes to local government boundaries and Ernest then transferred to the Borough police force. He was promoted to sergeant and Chief Clerk to the Chief Constable in 1926.

On 8th November 1931 the Sunday Express revealed what had happened during the Framerville raid which it was said had hastened the end of the war. An appeal was made for information as to “The Man Who Ended the War.”

A week later, on 15th November, the Sunday Express revealed that Ernest had been identified as the man after a former fellow officer, a Lieutenant Yeomans, had come forward with the necessary information which was verified by the commanding officer of the 17th Battalion at the time of the raid, Lieutenant Colonel E.J. Carter.

Lady Houston, the wealthy widow of a shipping magnate, announced that she was making a gift of £5000 to Ernest.

A ceremony took place at the Empire Cinema in Neath on 20th November when Ernest was presented with the cheque for £5000.

Further recognition followed on 20th January 1932 when Ernest was made an Honorary Freeman of the Borough of Neath and was presented with a scroll and a silver
A FORTUNE FOR “THE MAN WHO ENDED THE WAR.”

Sunday Express
22nd November 1931
casket. A dinner was also held in his honour by the Chief Constable of Neath and his police colleagues when an illuminated address was presented to him. Ernest also had further promotion in the Neath Police, becoming an Inspector in October 1937. He was acting Chief Constable of the Borough when he retired in 1943.

Following his retirement he became an investigator with the Board of Trade for six years before finally retiring in 1949.

After the Second World War he was attached to the Glamorgan Home Guard when that organisation was re-activated during the Cold War and held the rank of Major when it was finally stood down in 1957.

Ernest died at Neath on 3rd February 1966 aged 72. His funeral was well attended by police officers and local dignitaries and there was a police bearer party.

His bravery continues to be recognised. South Wales Police was proud to be able to mount an exhibition at the Firing Line Museum in Cardiff Castle during 2017 and 2018. In conjunction with the exhibition his story was also featured by the Sunday Express in its edition for Remembrance Sunday 2017 and subsequently by the Western Mail. He has also formed part of the coverage of ITV Wales of the centenary of the First World War.

The South Wales Police Heritage Centre is privileged to hold many items relating to Ernest including his medal set and Freedom casket and scroll.

The policeman from Neath, who was described in a newspaper report following his death as “always quiet and unassuming, but respected by all who knew him”, deserves to be remembered.
Thomas Beale
PC 82
Glamorgan Constabulary
Captain, 1/6th Battalion,
North Staffordshire
Regiment

Military Cross

Thomas was born on 21st March 1891 (or 1892, as the records vary). He was the son of David and Martha Beale of Wick in the Vale of Glamorgan. Prior to the First World War he worked in farming before joining the Glamorgan Constabulary in 1911.

During the war he was commissioned as an officer as the Glamorgan Gazette reported on 27th April 1917:

“Commission for Wick Man-On the wall of Wick School is a list of thirty nine old scholars of Mr. Kibblewhite who have joined H.M. Forces. One of them (Pte. David Beale, Welsh Guards) made the great sacrifice last July. Five of them hold His Majesty’s Commission. The last to achieve this distinction is Lieut. Thomas Beale, son of Mr. and Mrs. David Beale, of Wick and brother of the above. Joining up shortly after the outbreak of war, he soon became sergeant instructor in the Welsh Regiment at Kinmel Park, North Wales, and was ultimately granted an officer’s cadetship. He has now been gazetted to the North Staffordshire Regiment.”

As referred to in the above report, Thomas’s brother, David, had died whilst serving with the 1st Battalion, Welsh Guards on 25th July 1916. He is buried at the Brandhoek Military Cemetery in Belgium. The Glamorgan Gazette for 16th August 1916 had given the following details of David’s death:

“We regret to have to record the death in action of Pte. David R. Beale, aged 21 years, 1st Battalion, Welsh Guards. Pte. Beale was the son of Mr. and Mrs. David Beale, Wick. He joined the Welsh Guards on the formation of the regiment. He had been very lucky up to the date of his death, which took place on the 25th of last month. ….In a letter to Mr. and Mrs. Beale, his commanding officer says—He was a good boy, and a gallant, and one of the best Lewis gun men we had. We can ill spare such good fellows as him. He was killed by a shell from a trench mortar, and death was
instantaneous, as was that of his friend standing near him.”

It was whilst serving with 1/6th Battalion of the North Staffordshire Regiment in October 1918 that Thomas was awarded the Military Cross. The citation for it, which did not appear in the London Gazette until its’ Supplement of 4th October 1919 reads:

“During the operation of the 14th – 17th Oct. 1918 he showed himself to be a capable and fearless leader of men. He was responsible for capturing a farm on the east side of Riqueval Wood, east of Bohain, one field gun, two trench mortars, and nine prisoners. His example and hard work were responsible for getting his company into position and enabling the right of the battalion to push on.”

The Glamorgan Gazette gave details of the award as well in its edition for 24th January 1919:

“Capt. Thos. Beale, North Staffordshire Regiment, son of Mr. and Mrs. David Beale, Wick, has gained the Military Cross for conspicuous gallantry at the forcing of the main Hindenburg Line on the Sambre Canal, and at the capture of Bellinglise, which events are stated by Sir H.S.

The medals of Thomas Beale now in the care of the South Wales Police Heritage Centre
Rawlinson......commanding the Fourth Army, to rank among the finest and most dashing exploits of the war. Captain Beale, M.C., was educated at the Wick and Monknash School, and previous to enlistment was a member of the Glamorgan Constabulary, stationed at Porth. His many friends at Wick are very proud of the honour he has gained, and wish him long life to enjoy it.”

After the war, Thomas returned to the Glamorgan Constabulary becoming an Inspector before he retired in March 1946. He died on 31st August 1948.

EVAN GREY
PC 20 / PS 6
NEATH BOROUGH POLICE
LANCE SERGEANT 17473
14TH BATTALION
WELSH REGIMENT
SECOND LIEUTENANT
ROYAL WELSH FUSILIERS
DISTINGUISHED CONDUCT MEDAL

Evan Grey was born on 10th February 1895 in Swansea. Prior to the First World War he worked in the steel industry. At the census of 1911, he, his father, William, mother, Mary Ann, and younger brothers, John and Joseph, were living at 47 Penfilia Road in Brynhyfryd, Swansea. Evan’s father worked as a steel smelter, whilst Evan was described as a steel worker/engine driver, John was a tin works labourer and Joseph was in school.

After the outbreak of the war Evan joined the 14th (Swansea) Battalion of the Welsh Regiment, the “Swansea Pals”. It formed part of the 38th (Welsh Division) and Evan went to France with it on 2nd December 1915. The list of next of kin of members of the Battalion refers to Evan (with the initial “G”) as Private 17473 and his next of kin as his mother, M.A. Grey, of 45 Penfilia Road.

It’s likely that Evan saw action with the Battalion at Mametz Wood in 1916 and later during the Third Battle of Ypres in 1917. He was, in due course, promoted to Lance Sergeant and the Supplement to the London Gazette for 17th April 1918 contained the citation for the award to him of the Distinguished Conduct Medal:

“17473 L/Sjt. E. Grey, Welsh R. (Swansea)-For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. In action he constantly patrolled his
telephone wires to keep up communication, often under heavy fire”

In March 1919 Evan was commissioned as a Temporary Second Lieutenant in the Royal Welsh Fusiliers.

After the war Evan served with the Swansea Harbour Police between April 1922 and June 1923 after which he joined the Neath Borough Police as Constable 20 later becoming Sergeant 6. It is of interest to note that Sergeant 3 of the Neath Force was Ernest James Rollings, who was awarded the Military Cross and Bar during the war, and Sergeant 5 was Arthur George Ham who received the Distinguished Conduct Medal and Military Medal. A brave trio indeed from a small force.


The uniform tunic of Evan Grey as Police Sergeant 6, Neath Borough Police. Now in the care of the South Wales Police Heritage Centre.
Francis Howell Hall, or “Frank” as he seems to have been known, was born in Cardiff in 1892.

He joined the Glamorgan Constabulary in 1912 and before the war he was stationed at Barry Dock.

On 10th April 1915 Frank enlisted in the army and became Private 1185 in the 1st Battalion, Welsh Guards. He went to France with the Battalion on 17th August 1915 and served with it on the Western Front for the whole of the remainder of the war.

Soon after its arrival in France the Welsh Guards took part in the fierce fighting during the Battle of Loos in September 1915.

Frank, in a letter quoted in the Barry Herald of 12th November, gives a vivid account of his experiences during the battle:

“Private Frank Hall, of the Welsh Guards, formerly a police constable stationed at Barry Dock, in a letter to the ‘Barry Herald’, describes the recent charge and the great part played by the Welsh Guards. ‘We came’ says Private Hall, ‘along a main road for about three miles. From there we came into a blob (artillery) formation on some waste ground. There was a village in front of us, and we had to get through this village to a hill beyond and hold it. As soon as we were on the waste ground we were under heavy shell fire. Shrapnel and high explosive shells fell to right and left of us. No writer in any paper or book can describe the experience of crossing the waste ground. We crossed over all right, and started to advance through the village. This was bad, for they were shelling every house, and ‘Jack Johnsons’ were coming by the dozens. A couple of my mates and I leant against the wall of a house for a ‘breather’ when a high explosive shell hit the house opposite. I did not know where I
was for a minute, but I went on again, and eventually reached our destination, which was held easily. Our scouts (of which I am one) had to take some picks and shovels to the first line of trenches, for our chaps to dig themselves in, as the trenches were of no use to them. We left our headquarters, and started off. Suddenly the Germans shot up some star shells, and having spotted us opened machine gun fire on us. This was absolutely ‘hellish’ and I made a run and fell behind a tump of grass. I fell a bit heavily, and to my surprise I found I was not alone, for there was another chap under cover. I waited there for a while, to see if he was going to make a move. As he did not move, I started pushing him and shouting. I put my hand out and felt his face: it was cold. I need say no more.

Captain Osmond Williams, who met his death in action on the fatal 27th September, was absolutely loved by every man in the battalion. He was a grand man, and a gentleman. I know he was my superior, but he was a father to us all, and he is sadly missed by everyone, and I know he will always be remembered by all. If anyone in Barry wants to join the army tell them to hurry up, as all the chaps out here are doing their utmost, and working really hard. If a lot more were to join, it would be a great thing, for it would assist the men in the trenches, give a rest to the men who have been here a long time, and thus help to swamp the beastly Germans. If there is anyone anxious to have a ‘go’ at the Germans join the ‘WG’s’ and tell them they want to go to the firing line. If every eligible man was out here, and saw what it meant for dear old England, they would flock here in thousands.’”

Another letter from Frank was quoted by the Barry Herald on 24th December 1915 under the heading “Barry PC’s Narrow Escape”:

“Private Frank Hall, of the 1st Battalion, Welsh Guards, formerly a police constable at Barry Dock, writing from France, relates the circumstances of a narrow escape which he had recently. ‘I had my rifle to my shoulder’, he writes, ‘and had my sight dead on a German. I fired and hit him, but I had no...”
sooner fired than I had a bullet back. It hit the foresight of my rifle and burst the barrel, so I finished my work as a sniper for that day, and I can assure you that I had such a scare that I was not sorry to finish. But ‘All’s well that ends well,’ and I am still in the land of the living.’”

On 3rd September 1919, the Supplement to the London Gazette contained the citation for the award to Frank of the Distinguished Conduct Medal:

“He had been in charge of the battalion observers for the last eighteen months, and has continually displayed the greatest courage and devotion to duty. His services have been of the greatest use on many occasions, notably while the battalion was in the Boyelles sector in April and May, 1918, when he was able to give warning of the enemy massing, which he observed under shell fire.”

Frank returned to Britain in January 1919 prior to discharge from the army. He later resumed his police duties.

Arthur George Ham
Constable 30 and Sergeant 5
Neath Borough Police

Sergeant 1663
1st Battalion
Welsh Guards

Distinguished Conduct Medal and Military Medal

Arthur was born in East Brent in Somerset in 1894.

During the First World War he served with the 1st Battalion, Welsh Guards, initially as Private 1663 but was, in due course, promoted to Sergeant. He joined the army on 11th June 1915 and went to France on 4th November 1915.

Arthur was twice recognised for his bravery.

The Supplement to the London Gazette of 28th March 1918 contained the following citation for the award to him of the Distinguished Conduct Medal:

“For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty in an attack. He rushed his Lewis gun forward under heavy fire and engaged some enemy machine guns which were giving trouble. On reaching the enemy’s trench he
got a captured machine gun into action against the enemy and was of the greatest assistance in organising machine-gun teams and getting the guns into action. His cheerfulness and courage were a splendid example to all.”

In addition Arthur was awarded the Military Medal for bravery as confirmed by the Supplement to the London Gazette of 25th April 1918 although nothing further is known of the action which gave rise to it.

According to Army records, Arthur was discharged on 17th September 1919 but immediately re-enlisted on the following day and continued to serve until 3rd March 1921.

After leaving the army Arthur joined the police initially serving with the Glamorgan Constabulary from May 1921 to November 1922. Presumably as a result of boundary changes, he then transferred to the Neath Borough Police as PC 30 later becoming Sergeant 5.

The Chief Constable stated in his General Order of 30th September 1937, that the Borough Watch Committee had noted a case in which Arthur had been involved when a man had obtained money by deception from the Briton Ferry Ironworks:

“At the Police Court held at the Gwyn Hall on 2nd September … …. the Chairman of the Bench addressing PC Ham at the conclusion of the case stated on behalf of the Justices they desired to compliment him upon the very capable manner in which he had acted in the case which resulted in the prisoner being brought before them.”

Arthur died in Neath in 1974 aged 80.

HENRY JAMES NORMAN
PC 631
GLAMORGAN CONSTABULARY
LANCE SERGEANT 15111
3RD BATTALION
GRENADIER GUARDS
DISTINGUISHED CONDUCT MEDAL
Henry James, “Harry”, Norman was born in 1895 in Cardiff.

He joined the Grenadier Guards in February 1911 and was with them at the Guards Depot at Caterham in Surrey at the time of that year’s census.

In February 1914 he left the army and joined the Glamorgan Constabulary. However, he served as a policeman for only a relatively short time since, as a reservist, he was re-called to the colours on the outbreak of war on 4th August 1914.

He went to war with the 1st Battalion, Grenadier Guards, which then formed part of the 20th Infantry Brigade of the 7th Division, and landed with them at Zeebrugge in Belgium on 6th/7th October 1914. The 1st Battalion transferred to the 3rd Guards Brigade in the Guards Division in August 1915 and served with it for the remainder of the war.

At some stage Harry transferred to the 3rd Battalion of the Grenadier Guards which had landed in France at Le Havre in July 1915 and in August of that year became part of 2nd Guards Brigade in the newly formed Guards Division.

It was on 4th November 1918, just a week before the Armistice, that the 3rd Battalion was involved in the advance of the 2nd Guards Brigade in the area of Le Quesnoy near Valenciennes in Northern France. The History of the Guards Division in the Great War describes the scene:

“The 3rd Bn. Grenadier Guards, which had crossed the Rhonelle by means of a single plank bridge under heavy hostile shell fire, then came up and, passing through the Coldstream, continued the advance in touch with the 2nd Bn. Grenadier Guards on the front of the 1st Guards Brigade. The area over which they were attacking was much enclosed and the Grenadiers were hampered in their advance by the enemy’s machine gun defence for which the country was admirably adapted. They succeeded, however, in driving the Germans out of Preux-au-Sart, where some prisoners were taken, and, by 4pm, their leading companies had reached the vicinity of Gommegnies. Here the progress of the battalion was temporarily checked by the fire of hostile machine guns posted in the houses in the village; but touch
was well maintained with the troops on either flank, and, as soon as it became dusk, more ground was gained."

It was during this action that Harry displayed the courage which resulted in the award to him of the Distinguished Conduct Medal. The citation for it did not appear in the Supplement to the London Gazette until 25th February 1920 and reads as follows:

“For conspicuous gallantry at Preux-au-Sart on 4th November, 1918. Although wounded he remained in command of his platoon until the end of the day. He led a strong patrol, which captured four field guns under heavy machine gun fire, and subsequently manoeuvred his platoon up to a field gun, which was shooting at short range, killed some of the gunners and capturing the gun.”

The Penarth Times of 8th May 1919 had already reported on the award:

“Inspector John Davies is no doubt proud, and pardonably so, of the fact that he has two constables under his charge who have been awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal.

One of them is Constable Harry Norman, who served in the Grenadier Guards. He was called up at the outbreak of war as a Reservist, and was one of the first lot to go to France, arriving there in October 1914 with the famous 7th Division, who set up such a remarkable defence in the first battle of Ypres, thus preventing the Germans reaching Calais. Norman was wounded on four occasions, but was in at the finish. He has since been demobilised and has returned to take up duties at Penarth, which he left on joining up. PC Norman is a well-known footballer, having played for Penarth and Canton.”

After his discharge from the army Harry re-joined the Glamorgan Constabulary in January 1919 and, as mentioned in the newspaper report, he resumed duty at Penarth. He was later promoted to sergeant and served for several years in Aberdare before retiring in August 1945. He died in November 1959 aged 64.
EDMUND FLAHERTY
PC 118
GLAMORGAN CONSTABULARY
CORPORAL 17943
14TH BATTALION WELSH
REGIMENT
LANCE CORPORAL 29820
KING’S SHROPSHIRE LIGHT
INFANTRY
MILITARY MEDAL

Edmund was born in 1885 in Penarth. He joined the Glamorgan Constabulary in 1910 and at the commencement of the First World War he was stationed at Clydach in the Swansea Valley.

Edmund enlisted in the army on 23rd November 1914 as Private 17943 and joined the 14th Battalion of the Welsh Regiment, the “Swansea Pals”. He went with the Battalion, as part of the 38th (Welsh) Division, to France in December 1915, having by then been promoted to Corporal.

He served with the Battalion until October 1916 (and would presumably have fought with it during the Battle of Mametz Wood in July 1916), when he was hospitalised suffering from trench fever which led to him being evacuated to England from Boulogne on the hospital ship St. David in November.

He returned to France in March 1917 and subsequently saw service on attachment to the Drake Battalion of the 63rd (Royal Naval) Division before being transferred to the 10th Battalion of the King’s Shropshire Light Infantry in August 1918 as Private 29820, later becoming a Lance Corporal.

It was during his service with the 10th Battalion that Edmund was awarded the Military Medal for bravery as confirmed in the Supplement to the London Gazette published on 20th October 1919.

He was demobilised from the army in January 1919 and returned to police duties.

The local newspaper for the Swansea Valley-Llais Llafur (Labour Voice) - referred to Edmund’s wartime service, and that of other Clydach policemen, in its article of 22nd February 1919:
"Clydach may feel justly proud of the military record of its police force. The six police constables stationed in the neighbourhood at the outbreak of war and during hostilities heard the call to arms, and volunteered for active service. Police constables Edmund Flaherty and Lyons enlisted in the Swansea Battalion of the Welsh Regiment; Police constables William Rees, G. Davies and David Griffiths soon followed by joining the Welsh Guards, and some time later Police constable William Morgan Davies enlisted in the Royal Garrison Artillery. They took part in some hard and heavy fighting on the battlefields of France and Flanders. Lance Corporal G. Davies and Ptes. W. Rees and D. Griffiths were either wounded or gassed, and were subsequently discharged as unfit for further military service, and Gunner W.M. Davies was also gassed. Pte Lyons has since attained to rank of Company Sergt. Major, while Corpl. Flaherty was demobilised a week or two ago. The fine record of the force is further enhanced by the fact that Corpl. Edmund Flaherty was awarded the Military Medal for conspicuous service on the Somme in September, 1918. Valley people warmly congratulate him upon this distinction. Enlisting in the Swansea Battalion, October 1914, Corpl. Flaherty was in due course drafted out to France, where he was transferred to the Drake battalion of the Royal Naval Division and later was transferred again to the Shropshire Regiment. Of Irish extraction, he is a native of Penarth, and it is interesting to understand that he was one of three brothers who served with the colours, two of whom were awarded the Military Medal while the other was severely wounded. Since their discharge and demobilisation, Police constables William Rees, Griffith Davies, David Griffiths and Edmund Flaherty have all resumed their police duties at Clydach, where they are very popular and held in warm regard by the people."

In due course, Edmund retired from the police and died in 1951 aged 65.
EDWIN GEORGE PASK
PC 208/762
GLAMORGAN CONSTABULARY
SERGEANT 241490
LIEUTENANT, 5TH BATTALION
WELSH REGIMENT
MILITARY MEDAL

Edwin was born in 1891 in Treherbert in the Rhondda. He had military experience before the First World War since he enlisted in the South Wales Borderers in January 1908 and was stationed as a Lance Corporal with its 2nd Battalion at Artillery Barracks in Pretoria, South Africa, at the time of the census of 1911.

In November of that year he bought himself out of the army but obtained permission to continue to live in South Africa.

After the outbreak of the First World War he saw service as Sergeant 286 with the Natal Light Horse which had been formed in August 1914 and was engaged in countering a rebellion by Boers in support of Germany and in actions against German Forces in South West Africa before it was disbanded in 1915.

It seems that Edwin then returned to Britain and joined the Glamorgan Constabulary in 1915.

At some stage he re-joined the army becoming in due course sergeant 241490 in the 5th Battalion of the Welsh Regiment. The Battalion had been part of the pre-war Territorial Force and in August 1915 landed at Gallipoli as part of the 53rd (Welsh) Division. It then continued to serve in the Gallipoli campaign until December 1915 before serving in Egypt and Palestine until the end of the war.

Whilst serving with the 5th Battalion, Edwin was awarded the Military Medal for bravery as confirmed by the list which appeared in the Supplement to the London Gazette for 19th March 1918. There is no further information as to the background to the award. However, as Army records indicate that Edwin was commissioned as an officer in the 5th Battalion on 26th November 1917, it may have been that it was for his actions in Palestine.

Edwin returned to police service after the war before retiring. He died in 1965 aged 74.
John was born on 22nd August 1888 in the village of Long Sutton in Somerset. His father, also called John, was an agricultural labourer whilst his mother was Mary Ann. They too had been born in Long Sutton. John was baptised in the Parish Church of Holy Trinity on 2nd June 1890.

The census of 1891 records the family as living in Sutton Street in Long Sutton. In addition to John and his parents, also there were his brothers Francis, aged 19, a general labourer, Arthur, aged 15, an agricultural labourer, and his sisters Alice, aged 13, a glove maker, and Louisa and Gertrude, aged 10 and 3 respectively.

By the census of 1901, the family had moved to New Street in Long Sutton. John’s father had by then died and his widowed mother had taken up employment as a “washer woman”. John, then 12, was employed as an agricultural labourer whilst the only other member of the household was his younger sister, Bessy, who had been born in 1894.

On 12th December 1908 John joined the Glamorgan Constabulary and was stationed at various times at Senghenydd, Bargoed and Pontlottyn in the Rhymney Valley.

At the time of the census of 1911 he is shown, along with a large number of other policemen, as stationed in Barry Dock. This is likely to have been in connection with industrial unrest at the docks in the town at that time.

In January 1915 John left the police force and enlisted with the 13th (Forest of Dean) Battalion of the Gloucestershire Regiment at Cinderford. Not long afterwards, on Saturday 29th May 1915, John was married to Lily May Tucker of Bethel House, Pontlottyn at the Church of St Tyfaelog in the village, the vicar, the Reverend Gilbert Williams, officiating.

The 13th Battalion was a pioneer battalion, that is to say its’
role was to provide men in making and mending roads, digging trenches, constructing strong points and so on and they also acted as additional infantry if the need arose. They often worked in conjunction with the Royal Engineers.

The Battalion had been raised by a local MP shortly after the outbreak of war and, after a period of training, it went to France in March 1916 as the pioneer battalion attached to the 39th Division. During the subsequent years of the war the Battalion saw a great deal of action including the Battle of the Somme in 1916 and the Battle of Passchendaele in 1917.

In late March 1918 the German Army launched its Spring Offensive which, initially, achieved great success in driving back Allied forces. On 21st March the Germans attacked near the town of St Quentin where they were opposed by the British Fifth Army. Fighting was desperate and all available British troops, including the 13th Gloucesters were thrown into the Battle. It’s likely that it was during this fighting that, on 25th March, John was killed in action. He was 29 years of age.

Sadly John has no known grave but is remembered on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Memorial at Pozieres which is a village 6km north east of the town of Albert.

The Memorial records the names of over 14,000 casualties of the British and South African forces who died in the Somme area between 21st March and 7th August 1918 and who, like John, have no known grave.

John is also remembered on the war memorial at Pontlottyn, on a panel in the church in which he was married, St Tyfaelog, on the war memorial outside Holy Trinity Church in Long Sutton where he was baptised, and on the Glamorgan Police War Memorial at Police Headquarters in Bridgend.
26TH MARCH

PC 732 WILLIAM HENRY RADBOURNE
GLAMORGAN CONSTABULARY
LANCE CORPORAL 19601
3RD BATTALION COLDSTREAM GUARDS

William was originally from Surrey having been born at Outwood, a village near Redhill, in December 1894. His father, Henry Thomas Radbourne, was a blacksmith and was from Baydon in Wiltshire whilst his mother, Emily, had been born in Chieveley, Berkshire.

At the time of the census of 1901, the family was living in Outwood and the household included, along with William and his parents, his younger brother, Ernest, and his cousin, Alfred Hamblin.

At the census of 1911 the family’s address is given as Beach Cottage, Outwood and in addition to William, his parents, and Ernest, it now included William’s brother Brice Edward, then aged 9, and his sister, Elsie Emily, then aged 5. William was by then 16 years of age and employed as a grocer’s assistant.

In 1914 William joined the Glamorgan Constabulary and was stationed at Llandaff, Cardiff, before he enlisted in the army on 9th December 1915.

He joined the Coldstream Guards and, after a period of service in Britain, went to the Regiment’s 3rd Battalion in France on 24th May 1917. On 12th December that year he was promoted to Lance Corporal.

As has been mentioned earlier in relation to PC John Pope, March 1918 saw the launch of a major offensive by German forces. At that time William’s battalion was part of 4th Guards Brigade within 31st Division and it’s likely that it was during the fierce fighting during that period when the Division was in action in the area around Bapaume and St Quentin, that William received wounds from which he died at the 9th Field Ambulance on 26th March. He was 23 years of age.

A report on William’s death appeared in a local newspaper:
“Much sympathy has been felt for Mr. and Mrs. Radbourne..... in the sad death of their eldest son, Lance-Corpl. W.H. Radbourne, Coldstream Guards, who died on March 26th from wounds received in action. Lance-Corpl. Radbourne, before joing His Majesty’s Forces... was a member of the Glamorgan Constabulary, stationed at Llandaff, where he was much respected, and where much sympathy has been expressed towards his bereaved parents, including the following letter from the Chief Constable: ‘Dear Mrs. Radbourne. I am indeed grieved to hear of your son’s death. On the day that the first contingent of wounded soldiers arrived at Llandaff Hospital your boy stood watching me as I spoke to them, and at that moment he made up his mind that he too would go and fight for his country, and he left the force to do so the following day. I could only wish him luck and God speed. Sympathising with you in your great misfortune- Believe me, yours sincerely, Lionel Lindsay, Chief Constable.’”

On 6th April 1918 a notice as to William’s death appeared in the Western Mail which stated that he was “deeply mourned by his sorrowing friends and fiancee, Laura Greatrex.”

In the same edition of the Western Mail the notices column referred to the death of the Chief Constable’s nephew, Major Claude Frederick Thomas Lindsay. Fuller details were contained in the following report in the same newspaper under the heading “Glamorgan Family’s Heavy Loss”:

“Widespread sympathy will be extended to Col. H.E. Morgan Lindsay, C.B., and Mrs. Lindsay, of Ystradmynach, Glamorgan, in the heavy toll which the war has extracted from their family. The loss of three officer-sons in the course of the last nine months has reduced the male issue in the family to one son, a boy of six years old. Following the news on Tuesday that Lieut. Archibald T.T. Lindsay, of the Royal Engineers, one of the sons, had been killed in action in France, another telegram was received on Thursday that his elder brother, Major Claude Frederick Thomas Lindsay, of the RFA, had also made the supreme sacrifice.
It was only in June of last year that the eldest son, Capt. George Lindsay, of the Royal Flying Corps, was killed on active service. All three sons were very fine types of soldiers and excellent athletes. They were the nephews of Lord Tredegar and of Capt. Lionel Lindsay, MVO, Chief Constable of Glamorgan.”

As for William, he is buried at the Cabaret-Rouge British Cemetery which lies just south of the town of Souchez, near Arras in Northern France. The cemetery derives its name from a small red bricked and red tiled café that stood close to this site during the early days of the war before it was destroyed by shellfire. It contains over 7,650 burials of the First World War, over half of which remain unidentified.

William is also remembered on the Outwood village war memorial and on the Glamorgan Police War Memorial.

28TH MARCH

EX PC 118 THOMAS CHURCHES
GLAMORGAN CONSTABULARY
PRIVATE 4010
1ST BATTALION
WELSH GUARDS

Thomas was born in Llanbradach, near Caerphilly on 14th February 1896. His father was also called Thomas and was from Meare near Glastonbury in Somerset. His mother, Mary, was born in the United States.

At the time of the census of 1901 the family lived in Coedleddyn Row in Caerphilly. In the household, with Thomas and
his parents, were his older brother Herbert, and his older sister Lilian, together with his younger brothers, Percy and William George, and his younger sister, Violet.

By the census of 1911 the family had moved to Coedybrain Road in Llanbradach, near Caerphilly. Also in the family now were Thomas’ brothers Rufus, aged nine, and Kenneth, aged six, and sister Sybil, who was a year old. Sadly, Thomas’ brother, Percy, had died in January of that year aged twelve. Thomas, his father, and his brother Herbert, were all coal miners/hewers.

Thomas joined the Glamorgan Constabulary on 20th February 1915 and became Constable 118. He was stationed at some stage at Pentre in the Rhondda.

He resigned from the Force on 23rd October 1915 and appears to have returned to coal mining since his occupation was stated to be as a collier when he was called up for military service on 25th May 1917 at which time he became Private 4010 in the 1st Battalion of the Welsh Guards. He landed in France on 3rd January 1918 and joined the battalion on the 27th of that month.

It was whilst serving with them that he was killed in action on 28th March 1918 in the area of Boyelles, near Arras.

German forces had launched a major offensive in the spring of 1918 and the history of the Welsh Guards in the First World War records:

“On the night of the 27th the battalion relieved the 1st Battalion, Grenadier Guards on the right of the divisional front. The battalion held a front of some 2,000 yards with their right on Boyelles, and at 7am, on the 28th the enemy commenced to bombard the trenches, and continued doing so with increased violence until 11.30am. Companies on the right of the line reported the enemy massing in Boyelles, which was partly concealed by a rise in the ground. The Commanding Officer put the artillery on to him, and the attack did not develop in that quarter. On the left, however, the enemy drove back the division holding the hill north of Boiry Becquerelle on to the main Arras-Bapaume Road and proceeded to attack the flank of
the Prince of Wales’s Company.....2/Lieut. E. J. Davies was killed while repelling this attack.”

The Battalion’s war diary records that, in addition to Lieutenant Davies, 9 other ranks were killed that day, Thomas being one of them, and 20 were wounded.

Thomas has no known grave and, along with others from the Battalion, is commemorated in France on the Arras Memorial to the Missing which contains the names of almost 35,000 servicemen from the United Kingdom, South Africa and New Zealand who died in the Arras sector between the spring of 1916 and August 1918. The adjacent cemetery contains some 2650 Commonwealth burials of the First World War.

Thomas’s name does not appear on the Glamorgan Constabulary Roll of Honour or the War Memorial at Police Headquarters in Bridgend presumably because he had left the police before joining the army in 1917. Nevertheless, his inclusion in this booklet will ensure that his sacrifice is not forgotten.

The Arras Memorial and Cemetery
Charles was the son of William and Barbara James. His father was from Whitland in Carmarthenshire whilst his mother was from Cowbridge.

Charles was born in St. Nicholas in the Vale of Glamorgan on 17th January 1891. That year’s census records that the family, which included Charles’ older brother, Thomas, then a year old, was living in the police station in the village since Charles’ father was a sergeant in the Glamorgan Constabulary and based there. Two other police officers were lodging in the station at the time—a PC David Jones who was from Cardiganshire and a PC Benjamin James from Pembrokeshire.

By the census of 1901 Charles’ father had been posted to Ferndale in the Rhondda since the family is shown as living in the police station there. By then the family had grown with the addition of Charles’ brother, Daniel, then aged 9, and his sister, Gladys, aged 6. Also lodging there were PC’s H.H. Headen, Reginald Fudge, Edward Ryan and George Evans. There were also two prisoners in the cells.

On 3rd January 1910, Charles followed in his father’s footsteps and became a police officer in the Glamorgan Constabulary. He was employed as a haulier at the time he joined.

When the census was taken the following year Charles was at the Turberville Hotel in Penygraig in the Rhondda where he was presumably based, along with a number of other police officers, in connection with the policing of the industrial disputes which were then taking place in the collieries in the area.

At the outbreak of the First World War, Charles was stationed at Bridgend but resigned from the police on 6th November 1914 in order to enlist in the army which he did on 9th November.

Initially he served with a
cavalry regiment, 2nd Dragoon Guards (The Queen’s Bays) as Private GS/5744. He went to France on 18th May 1915 aboard the SS St. Petersburg landing at Rouen the following day and joining his regiment ten days later. It had been on the Western Front since August 1914 and had taken part in the early battles of the war such as Mons and Le Cateau.

Charles returned to England in January 1917 having applied to become an officer. His application was successful and he was posted to Number 4 Officer Cadet Battalion at Oxford before being commissioned as an officer on 26th June 1917. Charles was then transferred to the Welsh Regiment as a second Lieutenant.

In May 1918 Charles was attached to 15th (Carmarthen) Battalion of the Welsh Regiment when, on the 10th, the Battalion together with elements of the 14th (Swansea) Battalion of the regiment were to attack Aveluy Wood in the Somme area of Northern France.

Despite careful preparations by the infantry commanders involved, the attack failed due to the artillery barrage which was meant to support the attack, falling short causing a large number of casualties and confusion amongst the attacking troops.

The 15th Battalion lost 20 men killed that day, with three more dying of their wounds. Over a hundred men were wounded and two were missing. The Swansea Battalion lost twelve men killed and thirty wounded.

Amongst those killed in action was Charles, presumably as a result of the inaccurate firing by the British artillery. He was twenty seven years of age.

The officer in overall command of the artillery concerned, Brigadier General R.P. Benson, subsequently submitted a report in which he outlined the reasons for the mistaken calculations which had such a tragic outcome for Charles and his comrades:

“One battery of 18 pdrs which was engaged in the creeping barrage was undoubtedly shooting short. The reason was as under:

Some batteries have been supplied from Ordnance with
arcs and rulers which are fixed on to the Battery boards with drawing pins. The arcs are graduated into 1/2 degrees divisions, and there is no further mark on the arc except that ‘1/2’ degrees is marked on the edge. The Major of the battery in question had fixed the arc on the board with drawing pins with handles and the handle of one of the pins was folded down over the ‘1/2’.

On the 9th instant the Major of the Battery was relieved by the Captain, who worked out the switches for the barrage and, in error, ordered the preliminary barrage line ‘So many degrees’ left of the Zero point instead of ‘So many half degrees’.

The Battery therefore opened fire on a line well in rear of our front line and measurements shew that it would catch the third wave of the infantry at the time when the advance to the second objective was due.”

And so it was that an incorrectly placed drawing pin led to so many deaths and injuries.

The Brigadier General expressed his regret at what had occurred:

Martinsart British Cemetery
“Finally, may I, on behalf of the whole of the Artillery of V Corps, express my deep regret that mistakes on our part have caused so many casualties to the 114th Infantry Brigade, and should have undoubtedly prevented them from succeeding in the operation in which they were engaged. I can assure them that every step will be taken to prevent a recurrence of such mistakes and I trust that they will not lose that confidence in the support of the Artillery which these events must naturally have shaken.

I should be grateful if Commanding Officers could arrange for NCO’s and men of the Brigade should have an opportunity of seeing this report.”

Charles was originally buried near Aveluy Wood, his grave being marked by a wooden cross. His body was exhumed in the following year and re-buried at the Martinsart British Cemetery which is some 4km north of the town of Albert. There are 488 casualties of the First World War buried or commemorated there. The cemetery is unusual in that the headstones are of red sandstone rather than the more usual Portland stone.

Commonwealth War Graves Commission records show that Charles’ father’s address after the end of the war was “Llwyn yr Eos, Pontnewydd, Monmouthshire” and so Charles is remembered on Pontnewydd’s war memorial. He is also remembered on the Glamorgan Police War Memorial.

25TH MAY
PC 558
EDWARD FINDLAY
GLAMORGAN CONSTABULARY
LANCE SERGEANT 43691
4TH BATTALION,
BEDFORDSHIRE REGIMENT

Edward was born in Sevenoaks in Kent in June 1887 according to police records but other records vary showing 1883, 1884 and 1885.

It’s clear, however, that his father was Andrew Findlay who was from Fordoun in Kincardineshire in Scotland whilst
his mother, Isabel Shand Findlay, was also Scottish having been born in Huntly, Aberdeenshire.

Soldiers Died in the Great War is a little more specific as to Edward’s place of birth since it states that it was at “Knole Park” in Sevenoaks. As, according to the census of 1901, Andrew Findlay appears at that time to have been employed as a gamekeeper, it may be that when Edward was born he was working as such on the large Knole estate with its accompanying historic manor house.

In 1901 the family was living in Adlestrop in Gloucestershire. Edward, then said to be seventeen years of age, was also employed as a gamekeeper, whilst his younger brother, George, who was fourteen, was a farm labourer.

Adlestrop is a small village near Stow-in-the-Wold in Gloucestershire. It has a connection with the First World War as the poet Edward Thomas wrote about it in his poem of that name:

“Yes. I remember Adlestrop-
The name, because one afternoon
Of heat the express-train drew up there
Unwontedly. It was late June.

The steam hissed. Someone cleared his throat.
No one left and no one came
On the bare platform. What I saw
Was Adlestrop-only the name

And willows, willow-herb, and grass,
And meadowsweet, and haycocks dry,
No whit less still and lonely fair
Than the high cloudlets in the sky.

And for that minute a blackbird sang
Close by, and round him, mistier,
Farther and farther, all the birds
Of Oxfordshire and Gloucestershire.”

Sadly, Edward Thomas died far from the tranquillity of the Adlestrop of his poem as he was killed in action on the first day of the Battle of Arras in April 1917.

It appears that Edward Findlay moved from Gloucestershire at some stage since the census of 1911 shows that he was living as a
lodger at the Post Office at Scethrog, Bwlch, near Brecon. It appears that he was then employed as a night watchman on a nearby estate.

Shortly after the outbreak of the First World War, Edward joined the Glamorgan Constabulary on 11th August 1914 and was later stationed at Aberdare before resigning on 30th April 1915 to join the army along with colleagues as the photograph from the *Aberdare Leader* shows.

Records indicate that he served for a time with the Army Service Corps with the number T/4/069991 and the South Wales Borderers as a Corporal number 9/275540.

However, in May 1918 he was serving as Lance Sergeant 43691 with the 4th Battalion of the Bedfordshire Regiment which was part of 190th Brigade which, in turn, was part of the 63rd (Royal Naval) Division.

The latter had been formed in August 1914 out of men who were surplus to the requirements of the Royal Navy for maritime purposes. It fought with distinction throughout the war and took part at Gallipoli and in major battles on the Western Front.

In May 1918, Edward’s battalion was at Forceville in the area of the Somme. On 20th May another Glamorgan policeman joined the battalion when Lieutenant Colonel Frederick William (“Fred”) Smith, formerly an Inspector at Bridgend, assumed command of it. He had previously commanded the 16th (Cardiff City) Battalion of the Welsh Regiment and full details regarding
him can be found in our booklet for 1917.

The Battalion’s War Diary records that on 24th May it carried out a raid on the enemy’s line. The entry for the following day, 25th, gives details of casualties, possibly as a result of the raid. Several officers were killed, wounded or missing whilst six other ranks were killed, eleven were missing, thirty one wounded and one gassed. It’s assumed that Edward was one of those killed or missing since records show that he was killed in action on 25th May.

Edward has no known grave and, like his colleague from the Glamorgan Police, PC John Pope, he is commemorated on the Pozieres Memorial. Edward is also remembered on the Glamorgan Police War Memorial.
George was born on 26th October 1894 in the small Radnorshire village of Glascwm, the son of James Owen Lloyd and his wife, Mary (nee Jones), both of whom were from Radnorshire his father having been born at Llanbister and his mother in Betws.

At the census of 1901 George was living in Cwmshepherd near Builth Wells. His father was a farmer and in the household, along with George and his parents, were his older brother, John, then aged 13, and his younger brother, Charles, then less than a year old. His aunt, his mother’s sister, Jane Jones, who was a domestic waitress, was also with the family.

By the census of 1911 George had left home and was living with a farmer, David Griffiths, and his family, at Battle End near Brecon. George, then aged 16, was employed as a cowman on the farm.

George joined the Glamorgan Constabulary on 21st August 1915, his employment at the time being described in police records as a haulier. He was serving at Mountain Ash when on 31st August 1917, he left the police force to join the army.

George served with the Royal Garrison Artillery, which operated the heavy guns in support of the army, but according to Commonwealth War Graves Commission records he was attached to the Royal Field Artillery when he was killed in action in France on 11th June 1918. He was twenty three years of age and left a widow, Elizabeth.

Local newspapers reported on his death. The Brecon and Radnor Express of 25th July 1918 said that he was:

“….the third son of Mrs. Lloyd, Cilgarennnydd, Pont Faen. Previous to enlistment he was stationed as a constable at Mountain Ash, where he leaves a young widow and a wide circle...
of relatives and friends to mourn the loss of a most faithful husband and an upright and trustworthy friend. Much heartfelt sympathy is expressed with the young Mrs. Lloyd, and also the mother at Cilgareennydd in the loss of a good son.”

The Western Mail of 26th October 1918 reported that George had been killed “…somewhere near Bethune, by a shell bursting on his dugout.”

George is buried at the Houchin British Cemetery which is 5km south of Bethune in Northern France. The cemetery contains 700 Commonwealth burials of the First World War.

The inscription on George’s grave reads:

“In Silent Loving Remembrance We Deeply Mourn God’s Will Be Done”

George is also remembered on the Glamorgan Police War Memorial.

Houchin British Cemetery
4TH JULY

PC 257 ALBERT JOHN CHANNING
GLAMORGAN CONSTABULARY
CORPORAL 82346
124TH FIELD COMPANY
ROYAL ENGINEERS

Born in Grangetown in Cardiff on 4th June 1895, Albert was the son of John and Elizabeth Channing. His father was from Upton Pyne in Devon and his mother was from Otterton in the same county.

Albert was baptised at St Paul’s Church in Grangetown on 18th July 1895 when the family was living in Llanmaes Street, Grangetown. At that time his father was employed as a gas stoker.

By the time of the census of 1901 the family had moved to live in Devon Place in Canton, Cardiff. Albert’s father was then described as employed as a coal trimmer. In addition to Albert also at home was his sister, Eliza, then aged 8.

Sometime afterwards the family moved to live in Cora Street in the nearby town of Barry where Albert attended the Holton Road School.

By the census of 1911 the family had moved the short distance from Cora Street to Morel Street in Barry. At that time Albert’s father was working for a coal exporter whilst Albert himself, then 15 years of age, had obtained employment as an apprentice gas fitter and plumber in the Barry Docks.

However, on 15th August 1914, just after Britain had declared war on Germany, Albert joined the Glamorgan Constabulary and was later stationed at Penrhiwceiber in the Cynon Valley. Albert served as a constable until he left the Force on 5th March 1915 to enlist in the army.

He joined the Royal Engineers, initially as a Sapper, and served with 124th Field Company which was attached to the 38th (Welsh) Division. Albert went to France with the Division in December 1915. Albert’s unit remained with the Division throughout the war providing it with engineering support such as building defensive positions, bridges and so on.
Albert was promoted, eventually becoming an Acting Sergeant.

The soldiers who served on the front line during the First World War faced many hardships and dangers. One aspect which was a constant source of misery and irritation was the infestations of lice. However, they didn’t dampen the mens’ sense of humour as can be seen from a poem entitled “Pilgrims of the Night” which was published by the Barry Dock News on 13th April 1917. It had been written by men serving in the Royal Engineers and had been sent back home by Albert. Here are the first four verses:

“When you take King George’s shilling,
And express yourself as willing,
To come out and fight the Hun,
Then your troubles have begun,
For you also have to fight,
With the pilgrims of the night.

There are many things out here,
That you don’t quite like, I fear,
Against which you must contend,
While your country you defend,

But the thing to make you grouse,
Is that aggravating louse.

When you’re going off to sleep,
They are forming up two deep,
When you’re in the land of nod,
They are forming up in squad,
And you’ll find it most annoying,
When the section start deploying.

We don’t mind the German’s boasts,
We don’t mind the German’s hosts,
We can always play our cards,
When we meet the Prussian Guards,
But it’s fit to turn you barmy,
Wiping out this lousy army.”

During June and July 1918 the Welsh Division was in the Somme area to which the fighting had returned during the closing stages of the War. It was around this time that Albert contracted pneumonia from which he died at Number 3 Casualty Clearing Station on 4th July 1918, aged 23. The Barry Herald of 12th July reported that he had been enagaged to be maried to a woman from Barry.
The Barry Dock News of 19th July 1918 carried the following notice:

“CHANNING-Mr and Mrs J. Channing and Daughter wish to thank all friends for their kind letters and expressions of sympathy shown them in the sad loss of their son, Sergeant Channing, R.E., France.”

Albert is buried at the Bagneux British Cemetery at Gezaincourt near Doullens in Northern France. Number 3 Casualty Clearing Station was based in Gezaincourt between April and September 1918. There are 1374 servicemen from the First World War buried or commemorated in the cemetery.

On Albert’s grave is the inscription:

“His battle o’er and victory won. RIP. From Mam and Dad.”

Albert is also commemorated on the Glamorgan Police War Memorial.
Edward and his parents, his younger brother, Harry, then aged seven, and an Albert Stark who was a twenty six year old coal hewer from Devon, who was lodging with the family.

By the census of 1911 the family had moved the short distance to 17 William Street, Ystrad. Edward, now nineteen years of age was, like his father and his brother, Harry, employed in a local colliery as a coal miner/hewer. The family also then consisted of Edward’s brother, Herbert, then aged four, his sister, Ivy, a baby, and eleven year old Margaret Ann Foreman who had been adopted.

Later in 1911 Edward left coal mining and joined the Glamorgan Constabulary. He was stationed at Whitchurch in Cardiff and the 
Cambria Daily Leader of 13th April 1914 referred to a case involving him and another officer:

Harry and Charlotte Shurey with Edward as a baby
“Mr. Turnbull, of Heath House, near Cardiff, was aroused one morning by wild ringing of the bells at the front and rear of his residence, and by pebbles being thrown at the windows. Looking out he saw a man, who, it was evident by his action and demeanour, was beside himself. Consequently, Mr. Turnbull, telephoned to the City and County Police.

P.C. Hutchings and P.C. Shurey, of Whitchurch, were the first on the scene, and after a search they found the man on the Cardiff side of the Heath Wood, accompanied by a black retriever dog, which he had loosened from the chain when at the Heath House.

When approached he seemed very wild and excited, and struck out at P.C. Shurey. Both constables closed with him, and after a severe struggle succeeded in handcuffing the man. Ascertaining that the man resided with his parents in the Cathays district, the City Police took him to his home, and summoned Dr. C.C. Sheppard, who, after an examination, pronounced the man to be of unsound mind.

He is suffering from a mania of a religious character.”
On 27th November 1914
Edward enlisted in the army at Cardiff joining the 16th (Cardiff City) Battalion of the Welsh Regiment as Private 23091.

He was one of a number of Glamorgan policemen who joined the 16th Battalion and is included in this photograph which appeared in the Western Mail of 30th November 1914. It’s possible that it was taken outside the Cardiff Labour Exchange, which operated as a recruiting office, on the day that Edward went there to join up.

It’s clear that Edward was highly regarded since he was quickly promoted to corporal on 1st December 1914 and then to sergeant on 1st January 1915 before becoming a commissioned officer with effect from 31st March 1915 as a Second Lieutenant. He was subsequently promoted to Temporary Lieutenant.

Edward joined the Cardiff City Battalion in France in April 1916 and within a few weeks, on 5th May, he was seriously wounded in an accident when a rifle grenade
exploded prematurely during a training exercise. Eight other soldiers were also injured. The Battalion was at the time, as part of the 38th (Welsh) Division, in the area of La Gorgue near Armentieres.

The History of the Welsh Regiment in the First World War describes the hazardous nature of training with rifle grenades and bombs:

“...at intervals when the Battalions were not in the front trenches, instruction in bombing and the use of rifle grenades was given, there being a Brigade bombing instructor, as well as one officer and two sergeants in each Battalion.

The standard aimed at was that every man should throw two live bombs, that 128 men per Battalion should be expert bombers, while 384 men should have thrown at least ten live bombs. Due mainly to mechanical defects, and perhaps occasionally to carelessness, accidents were not infrequent...”

The history then lists two officers and two men from the Regiment who lost their lives during such practice and five officers and sixteen men who were wounded at different times, the latter including Edward and Edward on the left as a sergeant after joining the army
Major (later Lieutenant Colonel) Fred Smith of the Glamorgan Constabulary who was to become commanding officer of the Cardiff City Battalion, after Lieutenant Colonel Frank Gaskell was fatally wounded by enemy action less than two weeks after the incident involving Edward.

Following the incident on 5th May, Edward was evacuated to England on the hospital ship Asturias. He appears to have spent some time recuperating from his wounds and didn’t return to active service on the Western Front. Instead, he was posted to Kinmel Park Camp in North Wales where he joined the 21st (Reserve) Battalion, of the Welsh Regiment. This later underwent several changes of title becoming successively the 61st Training Reserve Battalion, the 221st (Graduated) Infantry Battalion, and finally the 52nd (Graduated) Battalion of the Cheshire Regiment.

In 1917 Edward married Florence Mary Pritchard at St. Asaph in Denbighshire and later that year, their son, Kenyon, was born.

Edward was engaged on instructing duties with the reserve or training battalion mentioned above and was posted with it to Ireland. Initially it was sent to Galway but by 1918 it was based at the Curragh Military Camp near Dublin.

On 17th July 1918 Edward was the officer responsible for giving instruction to a group of soldiers on the use of rifle grenades. During that morning several of the grenades had failed to detonate and had to be destroyed. Similarly there were “duds” during the afternoon firing session.

After the training had concluded Edward went forward to look for the unexploded grenades when suddenly one of them exploded causing serious injuries to his hands and chest. A medical orderly and an ambulance were quickly on the scene and Edward was immediately taken to the military hospital at the Curragh Camp where, sadly, he died of his injuries on the following day, 18th July.

Edward’s father received the following letter of condolence from Captain Lionel Lindsay, Chief Constable of Glamorgan:
My dear Mr Shurey

I am indeed grieved to hear of your gallant boy’s death.
He had often assured me that he would return to the “Force” after the war.
If he had been spared to do this he would of course have risen to a good position and it is indeed a bitter disappointment to me not to have a chance of doing what little I could to show what we who stayed at home felt towards those brave hearts who were the first to go out and fight for their country.

Your son was such a sportsman and a gentleman. At the boxing competition which he only entered for at the last moment, to fill a vacancy, everyone said that his fight with our Sailor Policeman “Light” was the best event of the evening. Hard hitting whilst showing the best of feeling. This was the spirit that enabled our practically untrained boys to stand up to the finest army the world had ever seen and take down their record.

Well Mr Shurey great as your grief is your intense pride in your dead boy will day by day more and more help you to bear it.

Hoping to meet you before long and in deepest sympathy with you and yours.

Believe me

Yours faithfully

Lionel Lindsay
Chief Constable
Edward is buried in the Curragh Military Cemetery which contains 103 Commonwealth burials of the First World War. The inscription on his grave reads:

“In memory of Lieut E Shurey The Welsh Regt who died 18th July 1918 This stone was erected by his brother officers”

He is also commemorated on a number of memorials including those at Whitchurch in Cardiff, St Stephen’s Church, Ystrad Rhondda, the North Wales Memorial at Bangor and on the Glamorgan Police War Memorial.

Edward’s widow and son lived in Leamington Spa after the war. The Leamington Spa Courier contained the following notice on 16th July 1920:

“SHUREY-In sacred and sweet memory to you my beloved husband, Lieut. Edward Shurey, died 18th July 1917 (sic). Never forgotten. Always in my thoughts my beloved. Loving wife Flo and little son.”

The same newspaper had the following notice in its edition for 17th July 1925:

“SHUREY-In sacred memory of my beloved husband, Lieut. Edward Shurey, who died of wounds July 17th (sic) 1918. The choicest pearl from my string has gone. Loved by his dear wife, and son Kenyon.”

21ST JULY

PC 696 SIDNEY WALTER WILLIAMS
GLAMORGAN CONSTABULARY
GUNNER 180347
ROYAL GARRISON ARTILLERY

Sidney was born in Magor near Newport, Monmouthshire in 1895, the son of Thomas and Mary Williams. His father had also been born in Magor whilst his mother was from Caldicot.

At the time of the census of 1901 the family was living at Castle Coch Cottage in Magor. The household consisted of Sidney, his parents, his sisters, Florence aged 16, and Emily aged 10, together with his brothers Reginald, aged 12, and Frank, aged 8. His father’s occupation is given as “haycutter”.

“SHUREY-In sacred and sweet memory to you my beloved husband, Lieut. Edward Shurey, died 18th July 1917 (sic). Never forgotten. Always in my thoughts my beloved. Loving wife Flo and little son.”
Sidney joined the Glamorgan Constabulary in 1915 and served at Ton Pentre in the Rhondda before leaving to enlist in the army at Pentre becoming a gunner in the Royal Garrison Artillery.

It was whilst he was serving with the 326th Siege Battery in France that he died of wounds on 21st July 1918 at the 73rd Field Ambulance. He was 22 years of age.

On 8th August 1918 the Western Mail published a poem in his memory an extract of which is given below:

“THE CHORISTER’S ‘LAST POST’
(In memory of
Sidney Walter Williams. RGA,
Magor, August 4, 1918)
The sun poured light in from the flaming West
Upon the humble worshippers of God
Who came to bow before
His chastening rod
And render thanks for blessings manifest
And when the service done of praise and prayer

Bully-Grenay Communal Cemetery, British Extension
Ere yet the priest the Blessing did bestow
The organ peeled forth chords, first sad and low.
Of thrilling requiem with appeal so rare

A singer of this white robed country choir
Had served his King 'neath friendly alien skies
And rendered up his soul on War's grim pyre,
Lit to serve one Monarch's lust and lies

Strange that a shot on France's battle-plains
Re-echoes here…………..

LEWIS DAVIES”

Sidney is buried in the Bully-Grenay Communal Cemetery, British Extension, some 20 km north of Arras. It contains 803 Commonwealth burials and commemorations from the First World War. 141 of the burials are unidentified.

Sidney is also commemorated on the Magor War Memorial and on the Glamorgan Police War Memorial.

4TH SEPTEMBER
PC 52 RICHARD WILLIAM BROWN
GLAMORGAN CONSTABULARY
SERGEANT 49106
17TH BATTALION
ROYAL WELSH FUSILIERS

Richard was born in 1889 (although his police record gives his date of birth as 26th November 1888) in Newport, Monmouthshire, the son of John Brown and his wife, Ann (nee Watkins). His father was a shoe maker from London whilst his mother had been born in Abersychan in Monmouthshire.

Richard was baptised at St. Woolos Church, Newport, on 31st December 1889.

At the census of 1891, Richard and his parents were living in Bristol Street in Newport along with Richard’s brother, John, and his sisters Harriet, Margaret, Rose and Jessie all of whom were older than him.

By the next census of 1901, Richard’s father had died and his mother had taken up the occupation of laundress. The household, then living in Halstead Street, Newport, consisted, in
addition to Richard, of his sister, Jessie, and another sister, Frances, then eight years of age. The family also had a lodger, David Harding, who was employed in the local docks as a wharf labourer.

Richard’s police records indicate that he had two spells of service with the Glamorgan Constabulary. He appears to have joined initially in 1910 as PC 82 and served for just over a year. When the census of 1911 was taken in April of that year, he was billeted in the Ogmore Arms in Gilfach Goch along with a number of other policemen from the Glamorgan Police in connection with the industrial disputes then taking place in the Rhondda coalfield.

In any event, on 18th May 1912 Richard rejoined the Glamorgan Constabulary and became PC 52 and was later stationed at Barry.

In 1913 Richard married Lilian Bishop and they had two children, Ronald, who was born in 1914, and Doris who was born in 1916.

At some stage after the commencement of the war Richard left the police and joined the army, enlisting in the Royal Welsh Fusiliers and becoming, in due course, acting sergeant 49106 in the 17th (2nd North Wales) Battalion of the Regiment. It seems that Richard had had some military experience with the South Wales Borderers before the War.

The 17th Battalion had been raised in North Wales in February 1915 and, subsequently, as part of the 38th (Welsh) Division saw action at Mametz Wood on the Somme in July 1916, during the Third Battle of Ypres in 1917 and during the last battles of the war on the Western Front in 1918.

In September 1918 the Welsh Division took part in a successful assault on the Canal du Nord in Northern France. It
seems that it was during the fighting in that area that Richard was killed in action on the 4th of the month.

He is buried in the Sailly-Saillisel British Cemetery which is situated 16km east of Albert and 10km south of Bapaume.

Sailly-Saillisel was captured from German forces by the French in October 1916 and remained in Allied hands until March 1918 when it fell during the German Spring Offensive of that year. It was recaptured on 1st September 1918 by British troops including those from the 38th (Welsh) Division.

The cemetery has 771 burials and commemorations of the First World War.

Richard is commemorated as well on the Glamorgan Police War Memorial.

**15TH SEPTEMBER**

**PC 150**

**JOSEPH INMAN**

**SWANSEA BOROUGH POLICE**

**PRIVATE 987**

**1ST BATTALION WELSH GUARDS**

Joseph was from Hull where he was born in 1890. He was the son of Joseph Inman from Darton in Yorkshire and his wife, Elizabeth, from Beverley, also in Yorkshire.

At the census of 1901 the family was living in Campbell Street, Beanford Terrace, in Hull. Along with Joseph and his parents, the household included his younger sister, Elsie, and his younger brothers, Albert and Frank. Also there at the time was his mother’s brother, George, who was a naval seaman.

By the census of 1911 it seems
that Joseph may have left home since he is not included on it. At that time his father together with Albert, Frank and two further sons, George and Sidney, were living at 11 Airedale Terrace, Staniforth Place, Hessle Road in Hull. Also living at the address were Beatrice Annie Joy, a housekeeper, and her daughter, Millicent. According to the census records Joseph’s father was employed as a dredgerman by the North Eastern Railway Company which operated docks at Hull. Later, following Joseph’s death during the war, there was reference, in a newspaper report, to him too having once been employed by the North Eastern Railway Company in their goods department at Hull.

At some stage Joseph left the north east of England and moved to Swansea since newspaper reports in 1914 and 1915 refer to him as a police officer with the Swansea Borough Police. The following in which Joseph is mentioned are of interest:

- The Herald of Wales on 23rd May 1914 reported on a case in which a man was charged with knowingly living off the immoral earnings of a woman. She had given him money on several occasions but on one evening she had refused resulting in him hitting her in the face and splitting her lip. The report went on to state that:

  “PC Inman gave evidence of seeing complainant hand over money to the defendant. He had seen her in company with other men, and defendant was always in the vicinity. Defendant did very little work, and was an associate of thieves.”

The defendant was convicted and the report stated that:

  “The Chairman in sentencing defendant to three months, warned him that next time he would be whipped.”

- On 7th November 1914 the following appeared in the Herald of Wales in relation to a haulier who was summoned for cruelty to a horse in Neath Road on 20th October and for using obscene language on the same occasion:
“PC Inman stated that he saw the defendant driving the mare near the Vivian’s Bridge. He was cruelly beating the animal. There was a very large load on the cart. Witness stopped the defendant who used foul language.

Inspector Lindsay of the RSPCA, stated that the mare was not fit to pull such a load… There were weals beneath the mare’s shoulder.

Defendant was fined 20s and costs for the cruelty but discharged him in the other case.”

- The Herald of Wales of 30th January 1915 gave an account of an inquest hearing before the Borough Coroner held at the Alexandra Chapel, Swansea. The body of a 54 year old collier had been found drowned in a local canal a few days earlier and his wife gave evidence of a quarrel between them shortly after Christmas when he had struck her to the head necessitating the calling of a doctor. Her husband had then run away and had not been seen since. The inquest heard evidence from Joseph:

“PC Joseph Inman, of Landore, who found the body, said that at 10.15 on Monday morning he received information and went to the canal near the Dillwyn Spelter Works, Morriston. He recovered the body, of which only the head was showing above the water. It was taken to Swansea Mortuary. He recognised the body by the description which had been circulated, as he was being looked for. Nobody appeared to have seen him alive after December 30th.

The jury returned a verdict of found drowned.”

- There was also an occasion when Joseph was assaulted on duty, as the Herald of Wales reported on 13th February 1915. In the case heard before the magistrates a collier was charged with being drunk and disorderly in Llangyfelach Road, with breaking an oil lamp valued at four shillings, the property of Messrs. Watson and Hayes, and also with assaulting Joseph whilst in the execution of his duty. The report stated that Joseph gave evidence that the collier:
“…came up to him and, although he was in uniform, asked him if he was a German. Defendant then picked up a lighted lamp which was round some repair works in the road and threw it at witness, striking him on the arm.”

The defendant was fined £2 with the alternative of one month’s imprisonment if he failed to pay.

Not long after the above case, Joseph left the police to enlist in the army at Swansea on 12th April 1915, joining the newly formed Welsh Guards as Private 987. At that time he was living at 1 White Street in Swansea whilst his attestation papers show that his next of kin was his father whose address was given as 8 Granville Terrace, Bean Street, Hessle Road, in Hull.

Joseph went to France with the Battalion on 17th August 1915. During his service on the Western Front he suffered injury on more than one occasion,

In October 1915, during the fierce fighting at the Battle of Loos, he was wounded in the right thigh which resulted in him being evacuated to England where he remained until November 1916 when he returned to his battalion in France.

He also suffered from neurasthenia (shell shock) in 1917 during the Third Battle of Ypres. His army record contains an account of what happened. It seems that at 1.30pm on 1st September at Langemarck he was taking mail to the front line when a shell burst, blowing him up and rendering him unconscious. On recovering he found himself in a shell hole full of water but managed to crawl back to Company Headquarters.

In March 1918 Joseph suffered from gas poisoning and then on 15th September he was killed in action. At that time the 1st Battalion, Welsh Guards was at Moeuvres, near the Canal du Nord in Northern France. The Battalion’s war diary entry for 15th September states:

“The Bn relieved the 2nd Bn Scots Guards in the front line in the Moeuvres sector…..a shell hit a platoon of No 2 Coy during the relief and killed 1 corp and 4 men and wounded 9 men.”
It’s likely that Joseph was one of those killed. He was 27 years of age.

News of his death would have come as a great blow to his family. But that was not all because less than a week later, on 21st September, his brother Frank, aged 18, was also killed in action in France whilst serving as Private 122605 with the 33rd Battalion of the Machine Gun Corps.

Joseph is buried at Lagnicourt Hedge Cemetery. This is in the village of Lagnicourt-Marcel which is situated north of the Bapaume to Cambrai Road. The village was captured by German forces in March 1918 but re-captured by the 2nd Guards Brigade on 3rd September 1918.

The cemetery is small and contains 63 Commonwealth casualties of the First World War.

Frank is buried less than 22km away at the Villers Hill British Cemetery. This is near the village of Villers-Guislain 16km from Cambrai. It was the scene of heavy fighting during 1917 and 1918. The cemetery contains 732 Commonwealth burials and commemorations of the First World War.

Joseph is also commemorated on the Swansea Borough Police War Memorial at Swansea Central Police Station.

The South Wales Weekly Post reported on 5th October 1918 on the proceedings of the Borough’s Watch Committee:

“In the case of ex PC Joseph Inman, killed in action whilst serving with the Welsh Guards, it was decided to grant the father a refund of £2 3s 6d, paid by the deceased into the Superannuation Fund.”

On 15th September 1919 the loss of the two brothers was remembered in a notice which appeared in the Hull Daily Mail:

“INMAN-In loving memory of Pte. Joseph Inman, 1st Welsh Guards, killed in action September 15th, 1918; also Pte. Frank Inman, MGC, killed in action September 21st, 1918, beloved sons of Joseph and Elizabeth Inman,
No Mother kissed their brow that day,
No home voice said ‘Good-bye’;
They fell in battle’s dread affray,
But God himself was nigh.”
Just under three months later, on 10th December 1919, the Hull Daily Mail reported on the sudden death of Joseph and Frank’s father:

“Two sudden deaths have been reported to the Hull Coroner. One is of Joseph Inman (51), 16, Florence Terrace, Villa Place, a dock labourer, who was admitted to the Infirmary in February this year suffering from appendicitis. Since his discharge he had complained of pains in the head, and had been attended by Dr Moir. On Sunday Inman retired to bed in the usual way. His wife heard him breathing heavily during the night and spoke to him, but could not get any answer. Dr. Moir was sent for. The man remained unconscious until Tuesday morning, when he died.”
Frederick was born in Llandaff in Cardiff in 1890. He was the son of John Sidney Smith, a brickworks manager, who had been born in Pontypridd, and his wife, Eliza Ann, who was from Cardiff.

At the time of the census of 1891 the family was living in Plassey Street in Penarth. Also in the household, in addition to Frederick and his parents, were his older brothers, Arthur and Thomas, and his older sisters, Charlotte, Gladys and Gertrude. Also present were Frederick’s grandfather, William Smith, a retired contractor, his grandmother, Sarah Smith, and Jane Griffiths who was a general domestic servant.

By the census of 1901 the family had moved to 145 Windsor Road in Penarth. Arthur was now employed as a carpenters’ apprentice, whilst Thomas was described as a school teacher but as he was then 16 it’s likely that this was as what was known as a “pupil teacher”. Another daughter had been added to the family in Evelyn, whilst grandmother Sarah, now widowed, was also there along with Frederick’s maternal grandfather, Thomas Shepherd, a retired saddler, and Frederick’s cousin, Elizabeth Avery.

The family had moved the short distance to number 125 Windsor Road by the time of the census of 1911 and by then Frederick’s father had died. Thomas was now a certificated school teacher, whilst Frederick was a general labourer. His sisters, Gladys and Evelyn (or Eveline) were both employed as shorthand and typist clerks whilst Gertrude helped in the home.

Frederick joined the Glamorgan Constabulary in 1911 and was, in due course, stationed at Taibach. After the commencement of the war he enlisted in the army at Port Talbot becoming Private 68832 in the Royal Army Medical Corps.

Subsequently Frederick transferred to the 12th Battalion of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.
Highlanders. The Battalion had been formed in Stirling in September 1914 and, as part of 77th Brigade of the 26th Division, went first to France in September 1914 and then to Salonika in Greece in November 1915.

Frederick’s Battalion took part in an assault on Bulgarian positions as part of the Battle of Doiran in northern Greece on 18th and 19th September 1918. The intention was to force the Bulgarians, who were allies of the Germans, from that part of Greece. However, despite fierce fighting the attacks were unsuccessful and the British had to withdraw.

It was on 19th September that Frederick was killed in action. He is buried at the Doiran Military Cemetery which is close to the Macedonia border and near the shore of Lake Doiran.

The cemetery was created in 1916 and the graves contained within it are almost all of officers and men of the 22nd and 26th
Divisions who fell during fighting in the area in 1917 and on 18th and 19th September 1918. There are 1338 Commonwealth burials of the First World War in the cemetery.

The graves in the cemetery are laid flat and on Frederick’s is the inscription “Thy Will Be Done”. Commonwealth War Graves Commission records state that Frederick was “the son of Mrs E.A. Smith of 31 Beauchamp Street, Riverside, Cardiff and the late J.S. Smith.”

Buried in the grave next to Frederick’s is Captain Norman Alfred Hughes, aged 30, of the 11th Battalion of the Welsh Regiment who was the son of the Bishop of Llandaff.

Frederick is also remembered on the Glamorgan Police War Memorial.

20TH SEPTEMBER

PC 617 ERNEST THOMAS JONES
GLAMORGAN CONSTABULARY
PRIVATE 43723
8TH BATTALION
ROYAL BERKSHIRE REGIMENT

Ernest was originally from Breconshire having been born at Glasbury near Hay-on-Wye in 1889. He was the son of Thomas and Margaret Jones. His father was from Radnorshire whilst his mother was born at Johnston in Pembrokeshire. Ernest was baptised in St Peter’s Church in Glasbury on 22nd December 1889.

At the time of the census of 1891 the family was living in the nearby village of Aberllynfi (Three Cocks). Ernest’s father’s occupation was given as gardener. Also in the household were Ernest’s older brother, William Richard, and his older sister, Lilian Jane, together with a lodger, Henry Holloway, who was from Monmouthshire and was also a gardener.
The family was still living in Aberllynfi in 1901. That year’s census records that the household consisted of Ernest and his parents, his younger brothers, Percy John, Johnstone and Victor, together with his younger sister, Bertha.

By 1911 the family had moved from rural Breconshire to industrial Glamorgan since that year’s census shows them living at New Quarry House in Penrhiwceiber.

Ernest’s father appears to have made use of his knowledge of working on the land since his occupation now involved looking after pit horses as he is described as a “colliery ostler underground”.

In addition to Ernest’s parents the household then consisted of Ernest who was also employed in the coal mines as a coal miner/hewer, his brothers Percy and Johnstone, also coal miners/hewers, Victor, aged 13, employed underground as a “junior hewer” and Ernest’s sister, Bertha, at 15 years of age, at home helping her mother with domestic matters. Also in the household was a lodger, Ernest Warren, from Bristol who was a haulier in the colliery.

Ernest joined the Glamorgan Constabulary in 1914 and was stationed at Aberdare. Subsequently, on 8th May 1915 he left the police and enlisted in the army in Aberdare, initially becoming a private in the Army Service Corps. At some stage he transferred to the Royal Berkshire Regiment and served with its 8th Battalion.

The Battalion had seen service on the Western Front since 1915 and by September 1918 it formed part of the 53rd Brigade of the 18th (Eastern) Division with which it saw much action during the Advance to Victory.

The Battalion took part in an attack on enemy positions near Ronssoy in France on 19th September and during it suffered casualties. The Battalion’s war diary refers to enemy artillery being “very active”, that there was strong machine gun fire and that the enemy opposition at one point was “very severe.”

It is recorded that Ernest was killed in action on the 20th but as the Battalion war diary makes no mention of action or casualties on the 20th it may be that he was, in fact, killed during the events of the 19th.
Ernest has no known grave and is commemorated on the Vis-en-Artois Memorial. This is situated on the main road between Arras and Cambrai and bears the names of over 9000 soldiers from Great Britain, Ireland, and South Africa who died between 8th August 1918 and the Armistice in November in the area between the Somme and Loos and who have no known grave.

Ernest is also commemorated on the Glamorgan Police War Memorial.

At the time of his death Ernest’s parents were living at 20 Pentwyn Avenue in Penrhiwceiber and a newspaper report of the death also referred to the fact that Ernest’s brother, Victor, had been wounded on four occasions during the war.
Edwin was originally from Somerset. He was born in Taunton in 1891, the son of Alfred Brown and his wife, Mary Ann. His father had also been born in Taunton and his mother was from Somerton in Somerset.

At the census of 1901 Edwin, his father and mother and his older brother, William, were living at 4 Princes Street in Taunton. Edwin’s father was employed as a “navvy” as were two other men who lodged with the family, whilst William, at 13 years of age, was employed as an errand boy. Edwin’s mother was described as being a laundress working from the home.

By the census of 1911 the family had moved the short distance to live at number 1 Princes Street. Edwin was then 19 years of age and working as a domestic gardener. Sometime later he moved to Cardiff and joined the City’s Police Force.

On 29th April 1915 Edwin enlisted in the army at Cardiff and joined the Welsh Guards as Private 1342. He went with them to France in August 1915 and whilst serving with them he was twice wounded in action.

The first occasion was during the Battle of Loos on 27th September 1915 when the Welsh Guards suffered many casualties including several police officers from South Wales. Edwin was treated for a wound to his left arm at the Number 6 General Hospital at Rouen before being evacuated to Britain. He received further treatment, including a period at the Welsh Metropolitan War Hospital at Whitchurch in Cardiff, before returning to his battalion on the Western Front in February 1916.

He was again wounded on 22nd June 1916 when the Battalion was near Ypres when he received an injury to his left hand. He was evacuated to England on
26th June on board the hospital ship, *St. Denis* and received treatment at the 2nd Eastern General Hospital in Brighton.

Edwin subsequently qualified as a machine gunner and transferred to the Guards Machine Gun Battalion in February 1917 returning to France in November that year.

At the start of the war there were relatively few machine guns in use by infantry battalions of the British Army. However, their importance in modern warfare soon became apparent and specialist sections of machine gunners were formed including companies of Machine Gun Guards attached to the Guards Division after its formation in 1915. The men and resources allocated to this form of fighting...
grew as the war progressed and in February 1918 the companies were brought together as a separate regiment when the Guards Machine Gun Regiment was formed. In due course, Edwin served with the 4th Battalion of the Regiment.

During September 1918 the Guards Division took part in the Battle of the Canal du Nord as part of the series of Allied offensives during the final hundred days of the war. The construction of the canal, near Cambrai in Northern France, had commenced in 1913 and it was only partly completed by the time of the Battle. Nevertheless, it formed a formidable defensive obstacle. It was eventually taken and the Welsh Guards, amongst others, distinguished themselves during the operations.

The Canal du Nord 9th July 2016
The Guards Machine Gun Regiment provided covering fire during the Battle and it was on 27th September that Edwin was killed in action.

After his death, Edwin’s mother received letters of condolence from his Regiment. They are reproduced in the next pages.

Edwin is buried at the Sanders Keep Military Cemetery, Graincourt-Les-Havrincourt, a village 10km south west of Cambrai. “Sanders Keep” was a German fortification near the village which was captured by the Scots Guards on 27th September 1918 and the Cemetery commemorates some 150 casualties of the War.

Edwin is also remembered on a war memorial at the Holy Trinity Church in Taunton and on the Cardiff City Police War Memorial in Cardiff Bay Police Station.
Hadam,

It is my painful duty to inform you that a report has been received from the War Office notifying the death of:

(No.) 1205 (Rank) Lance Corporal
(Name) Edwin Samuel Brown.
(Regiment) Guards Machine Gun Regiment.

which occurred at F.E.F. France.

on the 27th September 1918.

The report is to the effect that he was killed in action.

By His Majesty’s command I am to forward the enclosed message of sympathy from Their Gracious Majesties the King and Queen. I am at the same time to express the regret of the Army Council at the soldier’s death in his Country’s service.

I am to add that any information that may be received as to the soldier’s burial will be communicated to you in due course. A separate leaflet dealing more fully with this subject is enclosed.

I am,

Hadam.

Your obedient Servant,

T. Redtebeck

Captain for Colonel.

Officer in charge of Records.

Guards Machine Gun Regiment

Letter received by Edwin’s mother notifying her of his death
In the Field

29-09-18.

Dear Mrs Brown

It is with the very deepest regret that I write to inform you that your son Lance Corporal E. S. Brown No 1205 was killed during the attack on the 27th inst. The section came under very heavy shell fire and he and one of my men were both killed instantaneously by the same shell, so that they were spared any suffering. Your son was a very brave man, and had done very good work all the time he has been with this section. His death is a very great loss to us, and his place will be difficult to fill. An NCO of his ability and experience will be hard to find. No words of mine I know can comfort you in your great sorrow. God alone can do that. But you have the consolation of knowing that he died doing his duty in a good cause, as so many brave men have done, and we who knew them shall always remember them with pride. On behalf of all the NCO’s and men of the section I beg to offer you and all his family our very deepest and sincerest sympathy.

Yours sincerely,

Lieut LH Barnes,
Commanding No 1 Company
4th Battalion,
Guards Machine Gun Regiment
B-E-F
Sept 29th 1918

Sergt A E Fox
No 1 Section
No 1 Company
4th Battalion
Machine Gun Guards
BEF France

Dear Mrs Brown

It is with sincere regret I now write these few lines to inform you of the death of your gallant son, who was killed in action on the 27th inst about 1.30pm. He suffered no pain. I don’t know how to offer my sympathy it is so great. For he was such a good man, and very quiet. He is mourned by all his section, and by all who knew him. He was brave to the last and very confident. My only wish is that God will give you strength to bear up against the great loss you have been called upon to bear. If there is anything you would like to know, I shall be only too pleased to tell you. In concluding, the sympathy of his section goes with this letter, so may God be with you and help you over this great bereavement. So now I will close. Believe me to be,

Yours sincerely

A.E. Fox. Sergt
William was born in Swansea in 1893. His father, also called William, was from Birmingham whilst his mother, Frances, was born in Swansea.

By the time of the census of 1901 William’s parents had moved to live at Mabel Street in Motherwell, Lanarkshire, in Scotland. William’s father was then employed in the steel industry. Also in the household, in addition to William, were his younger sisters, Angela and Jane, and his younger brother, Sidney.

By 1911 and that year’s census it seems that William had left the family home and was lodging as a boarder, along with a number of others, with a William and Mariah Lacey at 12 Washington Place in Landore in Swansea. William’s occupation at that time was as a driller in a local engineering works.

In 1911 William’s parents were living at 89 Eaton Road in Brynhyfryd in Swansea along with another sister of William’s, Beatrice Maud, then aged 15, and Angela, Jane, and Sidney. In addition, by that date William had another brother, Charles, who was aged seven. The census records that also in the household was Reuben Osborn Rapsey who was stated to be the brother of William’s father. He was 19 years of age and employed as a goods porter on the Rhondda and Swansea Bay Railway.

The records of the Great Western Railway Company indicate that William, whose date of birth is recorded as 3rd April 1893, was employed as a cleaner at Landore Station from 10th December 1910 to 13th February 1911 when he is recorded as having “left”. On 10th December 1911 he is shown as being employed by the Company, again as a cleaner at Landore. It may, therefore, be that he had taken up the employment shown in the census of 1911 in the intervening period.
In 1914 William married Mabel Alice Brown at Swansea and their daughter, Violet, was born the following year.

At some stage William joined the Swansea Borough Police. There are references to him in local newspapers concerning cases in which he was involved.

On 4th December 1915, the South Wales Weekly Post contained the following report:

“At Swansea on Friday James Collins (48), labourer, was charged with drunkenness and being indecent in his behaviour in High Street, on Thursday. PC (144) Rapsey, gave evidence, and defendant said he had been travelling from Ireland all night and took a little too much. He had never been in this country before, and was going to work at Pembrey: he had been sent over by the Labour Exchange. Defendant was discharged, and told to get out of the town as quickly as he could.”

The Herald of Wales of 8th July 1916 reported on the sad case of a mother who had committed suicide by taking carbolic acid. In evidence before the coroner’s Inquest, her husband, who was serving in the army, said that his wife, who kept a boarding house, had been threatened by thieves who had been to the house stealing clothes. He felt that this had played on her mind. There were three young children living in the family, another having died a short time previously. William is referred to in the report as having recovered a razor from the deceased’s clothing and the report concludes by stating that “A verdict of ‘suicide whilst of unsound mind’ was returned, the jury expressing sympathy with deceased’s relatives.”

During the war William left the police force and joined the army, serving in France from 12th April 1917 with the Military Foot Police, as a Lance Corporal.

The Military Foot Police (MFP) had been formed as a permanent organisation in 1885 and was linked with the Military Mounted Police. Together they formed the Corps of Military Police. The roles of the MFP included the detection of crime amongst army personnel and the arrest of offenders, controlling and dealing with stragglers and deserters during the confusion of battle, traffic
control and dealing with prisoners of war.

The *South Wales Weekly Post* of 28th September 1918 published the photograph of William which accompanies this biography and under which was the caption:

“Lce-Cpl Rapsey, 182, Grey Street, Landore, an ex-Swansea constable, who has won a certificate for bravery.”

Shortly afterwards, on 14th October 1918, William was killed in action. It is not known with which unit of the MFP he was serving at the time of his death, but it is assumed that it was in the area around Ypres in Flanders since he is buried at the Ypres Reservoir Cemetery. There are 2613 casualties of the First World War buried or commemorated in the Cemetery.
William was 25 years of age when he died and the Commonwealth War Graves Commission records that he was the “Son of Mr. and Mrs. Rapsey of Landore; husband of Mabel Alice Austin (formerly Rapsey), of 1 Ewart Place, Brynhyfryd, Swansea”.

William is also remembered on the Swansea Borough Police War Memorial in the Central Police Station, Swansea.

21ST OCTOBER
PC 46 ALBERT HOLLYMAN
CARDIFF CITY POLICE
PRIVATE 103
1ST BATTALION
WELSH GUARDS

Albert was from Cardiff, where he was born in 1887, the son of Frederick and Ellen Hollyman. He was baptised in the city’s St. John the Baptist Church on 19th October that year.

At the census of 1891 the family was living in Scott Street in Cardiff in an area then known as “Temperance Town” situated near the Central Railway Station and which is now part of the Central Square re-development. The houses there had been built in the nineteenth century on land acquired by Edward Wood who was a follower of the Temperance Movement. As a consequence there was a strict no alcohol policy imposed on residents and there was a prohibition on any premises being used for the sale
of alcohol. The condition of the area declined in the period after the First World War and its buildings were all demolished by the end of the 1930’s.

In 1891 the household consisted of Albert, his father, who was from Somerset and worked as a joiner, his mother (wrongly referred to as Emily in the census) who had been born in Cardiff, Albert’s older brothers George, Frederick, Ivor and Ernest and his younger sister, Nellie.

By the census of 1901 Albert’s father had died and his mother had re-married to Charles Purnell, a stonemason from Bristol. Albert now lived with his mother and step father in Court Road in Canton in Cardiff, along with his step brother Herbert, who was employed as a bottle washer, and his step sisters, Annie and Elsie, along with his brothers, Frederick, a warehouseman in a soda works, Ivor, a machinist, and Ernest, a milk seller, his sister Nellie, and his youngest brother, William, who had been born in 1893.
On 9th May 1906 at Cardiff, Albert enlisted in the army joining the Grenadier Guards as Private 12702. At the time of his attestation his occupation was given as labourer. He served for three years with the regiment’s 3rd Battalion until May 1909 when he was transferred to the reserve.

In 1911 Albert was, according to that years’ census, living in Craddock Street in Canton with his brother George, a general dealer, and George’s wife, Esther. Also there were George and Esther’s sons, Frederick, George and William and their daughter, Ivy. Albert was recorded as being their lodger and was then employed as a coal trimmer.

Just before Christmas 1911, on 23rd December, Albert married Gladys Lewis at the Register Office in Cardiff. They were to have three children, Edna May, who was born on 11th April 1912, William Albert, born on 14th November 1913 and Douglas Haig, born on 9th January 1917.

Albert joined the Cardiff City Police on 12th March 1913 but on the outbreak of war in August 1914 he was recalled to the colours as a reservist and initially re-joined his old regiment, the Grenadier Guards. However, on 27th February 1915 he transferred to the newly formed Welsh Guards with whom he went to France on 17th August 1915 as Private 103.

He then served with the regiment on the Western Front and would likely have taken part in the major battles in which it was involved such as Loos in 1915, the Somme in 1916, Ypres in 1917 and those during the final year of the war.

On 20th September 1918 Albert went home on leave and returned to his unit in France on 4th October. On 10th October he was admitted to hospital in Etaples where he died of pneumonia at the 26th General Hospital on the 21st, less than a month before the Armistice in November.

The Western Mail of 26th October carried the following notice of his death:

“HOLLYMAN-October 22nd (sic), 1918, at the 26th General Hospital, Etaples, France, Private A. Hollyman, beloved husband of Gladys Hollyman, 63 Treharris Street, Roath.”
Cardiff, formerly City police constable, C Division.”

In addition to his widow Albert also left his three young children, Edna, William and Douglas.

Albert is buried at the Etaples Military Cemetery which is about 27km south of Boulogne. During the First World War Etaples was the location for a huge concentration of military camps and hospitals. At its peak some 100,000 troops were stationed there. The Cemetery is the largest Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery in France and contains 10,771 burials from the First World War. It was opened by King George V and Field Marshal Haig in May 1922.

The inscription on Albert’s grave reads:

“Long as life and memory last your wife and children remember thee”

Albert is also remembered on the Cardiff City Police War Memorial.
Frank died on 11th November 1918, the day of the Armistice between the Allies and Germany.

According to police records he was born on 6th October 1887 in Bristol.

At the census of 1911 Frank seems to have been living in Tower Street in Pontypridd as a boarder with the family of Charles and Blanche Hunt and their six children.

Also in the household was Elizabeth Sherborne, who was then aged 60, and from Somerset. She was stated to be Blanche’s mother. Later, when Frank joined the army, he gave details of Elizabeth, then living in Forest Road, Treforest, near Pontypridd, as his next of kin and described her as his aunt.

In 1911 Frank’s occupation was that of a platerlayer on the railways and that was his employment when he joined the Glamorgan Constabulary on 18th November 1912.

There are several newspaper reports which refer to Frank when he performed duty as a police officer. One is of particular interest since it shows how proud local people were of the efforts of men from their communities who had fought during the early battles of the war such as that at Mons. This report, from the Glamorgan Gazette of Friday, 16th October, 1914, paints a vivid picture of the homecoming of a wounded soldier and Frank clearly played a part in the event:

“Despite the rain falling when the 8.30pm train steamed into Nantymoel Station, a crowd of about 7000 welcomed the return home of Gunner C. Thomas, who was wounded at Mons. …. Gunner Thomas was placed in a brake with Private Syd Powell, and a procession was formed headed by the Boy Scouts, with their leader Mr. Wilcox and the chaplain, Rev. Archibald Davies. Then followed
the Temperance Band, under the able conductorship of Mr. Sam Gillard. Then a crowd of some thousands, who cheered loudly. Rev. M. Mollins spoke, and thanked the band and Ambulance and Boy Scouts, and everyone who had helped to make the procession a success. Councillor Evan Griffiths also spoke. Gunner Thomas replied, and was warmly cheered and carried shoulder high from the brake into the house, where he was greeted by all his relatives and friends. Sergt. Lister and PC’s Turner, Trott and Hughes are to be complimented on the able way in which they controlled the crowd.”

Frank was serving as a police officer at Porthcawl when, on 23rd April 1915, he resigned from the police and enlisted in the army on the following day at Bridgend.

Like many Glamorgan policemen, Frank joined the newly formed Welsh Guards. He was one of five Porthcawl policemen to enlist at that time. PC David Charles Grant (see our booklet for 1915) and PC William Jones Thomas (whose biography appears in our booklet for 1917) died as a result of the war, whilst the other two, PC’s Denis Hayes and William Richardson, survived.

Frank and other police officers from South Wales made an important contribution to the choir of the Welsh Guards as the Western Mail reported on 23rd July 1915 under the heading “Singing Welsh Guards”:

“Owing to the unique character of the occasion, the visit of a special contingent of Welsh Guards to Cardiff tomorrow (Saturday) is being anticipated with an extraordinary amount of public interest, not only in the city but throughout Glamorgan, with which county the Welsh Guards Regiment is so closely associated. As already stated the contingent will include a glee party, consisting of the best vocal talent in the regiment, who will give a programme of musical items at the Park Hall.”

There then followed a list of 24 former policemen from the Glamorgan, Cardiff, Swansea, Monmouthshire and Newport forces. Included in the Glamorgan contingent was Frank along with others who were to die in the war: Augustus Harris (Barry
Dock), William Jones Thomas, David Charles Grant, and William East (Llanbradach). The report also stated that by then 62 former Glamorgan policemen had joined the Welsh Guards.

Frank went to France with his regiment on 17th August 1915 and it’s likely that he took part with it in its baptism of fire during the Battle of Loos later that year.

The History of the Welsh Guards in the First World War and the Battalion’s war diary make reference to Frank since he was with others, including former Glamorgan policemen, Private 758 Anthony Augustus West and Private 1189 William Jones, chosen to represent the regiment at a major parade in Paris on 14th July 1916. As the History put it “they all got a few days holiday and amusement.”

On 10th September 1916 Frank was wounded in action when he received gunshot wounds to the chest. At this time the Welsh Guards were engaged in heavy fighting in attempting to capture the village of Ginchy during the Battle of the Somme. It suffered many casualties including former Glamorgan policemen Edward John Edwards, Henry Morgan Jones, William Jones (mentioned above), and Arthur Richmond Perkins, former Swansea Borough policeman Aubrey Alfred Smale, and former Merthyr Borough policeman, Reginald Lovis, all of whom died.

Frank was admitted to the 10th General Hospital at Rouen on 12th September and, due to the seriousness of his injuries, was transferred to Britain on board the hospital ship Lanfranc on the 16th. A contemporary newspaper report stated that he had suffered bullet wounds to his lungs.

The Lanfranc, an ocean liner that had been requisitioned as a hospital ship, was itself to become a casualty the following year when, on the evening of 17th April 1917, it was sunk by a German submarine whilst transporting wounded soldiers from Le Havre to Southampton. Twenty two British soldiers lost their lives together with 18 German prisoners of war.

It seems that Frank spent some time in hospital before being posted to the 2nd (Reserve) Battalion of the Welsh Guards as an acting Lance Sergeant on 27th
June 1917 when it was based at Tadworth in Surrey. The 2nd Battalion did not see active service since its’ role was to provide drafts of trained men for the 1st Battalion.

Frank did not return to active service and was discharged from the army on 4th June 1918 when he was transferred to the Reserve.

Police records show that he had actually re-joined the Glamorgan Constabulary on 1st June 1918 and resumed his police duties. Again there are references to him in the reports of the Glamorgan Gazette:

- In its edition for 23rd August it reported that “a middle aged

man of military bearing wearing spectacles, described as a collier, from Porthcawl, was charged with using abusive language in John street, Porthcawl.” It seems that there had been an altercation between this man and another who he described as “a pacifist and conscientious objector”. Frank gave evidence as to the incident and the language used which the defendant denied. The magistrates found the case proved and fined the defendant 15s.

- Its report on 6th September reflected the stringent nature of wartime regulations under...
the Defence of the Realm Act in that two women, in separate cases, were summoned before the magistrates for failing to obscure a light which was visible from the sea. The first woman, having had the matter drawn to her attention by Frank, had replied that “her visitors must have lighted the light and forgotten to pull down the blind.” She pleaded guilty and was fined £1. In the other case the defendant claimed that she was not at the property concerned. Frank gave evidence that there was “a brilliant light” shining through the window. She, too, was fined £1.

On 21st October 1918, Frank married Annie Mary David at the parish church of St. John the Baptist, Newton Nottage, near Porthcawl. Annie, aged 26, was the daughter of William David, a labourer, and was from Nottage. Frank, by then 31 years of age, gave his address as the Police Station, Porthcawl. Of interest is the fact that his father’s name is recorded as Frank Trott and that he, too, was a policeman although nothing further is known about him.

Tragically, the marriage was only to last for a very short time since, within less than a month, Frank died on 11th November 1918 of pneumonia. However, it’s clear that, although he had by then been discharged from the army, his death was connected to the wounds he had received on active service since his death is recorded by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and their customary headstone stands in the graveyard of the church in Newton Nottage where he was married and where he was buried on 14th November.

Frank’s funeral was the subject of a report in a local newspaper which is reproduced in full:

“The mortal remains of the late P.C. Trott were interred, with full military honours in Newton Churchyard on Thursday last. Long before the time of starting hundreds of people had assembled outside the Police Station. The Rev. W.J. Phillips (Newton) feelingly conducted a service at the Police Station, and also gave out the hymn, ‘Jesu, lover of my soul’, which the
excellent Kenfig Hill Band played.

The cortège, headed by the firing party of the local VTC’s, under the charge of Sergt-major Farrow, followed by the band and a party of 35 of the Glamorgan Constabulary, under the command of Col. Lindsay, wounded soldiers, discharged sailors and soldiers and the Boy Scouts, under the charge of Scoutmaster D. Hutchinson, then wended its way to Newton Churchyard, when the strains of the ‘Dead March in Saul’ were played. The superintendents and inspectors of the police, which included Supts. Jones (Canton), Morris (Barry), and Inspectors Davies (Bridgend), Davies (Porth), and Davies (Penarth), walked by the side of the hearse. Blinds were drawn along the route, which showed the high esteem in which the late P.C. Trott was held.
IN THE CHURCH—Upon arriving at the church the body was met by the Rev. T. Holmes Morgan, who effectively conducted the service in the church.

AT THE GRAVESIDE—At the graveside the Rector read the commitment sentences with deep emotion, after which the firing party fired three volleys over the grave, and the ‘Last Post’ was sounded. Col. Lindsay also ordered the police to give the last salute to their comrade.

THE MOURNERS—The principal mourners were the widow and Mr. D. Lewis, Rose and Crown Inn, Nottage.

FLORAL TRIBUTES—Beautiful floral tributes were sent by the widow, Mr. D. Lewis (Rose and Crown Inn), P.C. Vallence and family, Sergt. Jenkins and family, and P.C. McLaughlin, and the Porthcawl Discharged Sailors and Soldiers Federation."

For some unknown reason Frank’s death is not recorded on the Glamorgan Police War Memorial or on its Roll of Honour. His name does, however, appear on the Porthcawl War Memorial.

Of all the deaths which we have recorded in our annual commemoration booklets, Frank’s seems particularly poignant. He took part in fierce fighting, was seriously wounded and died just a few weeks after being married. The fact that his death occurred on the very day that the guns fell silent on the Western Front adds to the sadness. However, as we shall see in the next sections of this booklet the Armistice did not bring an end to the suffering of others.

Frank’s grave in the graveyard of St. John’s Church, Newton Nottage together with a commemorative cross from South Wales Police
Henry was born in 1892 at Goathurst, a village near Bridgewater in Somerset. He was the son of Esau and Eliza Porter both of whom were from Somerset. Henry was baptised in the village on 19th June 1892.

At the census of 1901, the family was living in Goathurst and, included, along with Henry, (described as “Harry”), and his parents, Henry’s older brothers Thomas, John and Fred and his older sister, Alice, a domestic housemaid, and younger sister, Dorothy. Henry’s father was a farm labourer as was John, whilst Thomas and Fred were also employed in farming as a carter and horseman respectively.

By the census of 1911 the family was still living in Goathurst where Henry’s father continued to be employed as a farm labourer which was also Henry’s occupation by that time.

At some stage Henry left the farmland of Somerset and moved to Cardiff where he married Margaret Manx Pope. A son, Arthur James Evan, was born in 1916.

In April 1913 Henry became a police officer with the Cardiff City Police and was stationed at Roath Police Station before he enlisted in the army at Cardiff in February 1916. He appears to have been mobilised in May the following year and it was whilst he was on active service in France in April 1918 with the Royal Garrison Artillery that he suffered a gunshot wound to his thigh.

Henry spent some time in hospital in Britain and sadly died at the St Mark’s Hospital in Brighton, part of the 2nd Eastern General Hospital, on 6th January 1919 after contracting pneumonia.

A contemporary newspaper report carried the following details of his death:

“Bombardier Henry James Porter, Royal Garrison Artillery, formerly a member of the Cardiff City
Police, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Porter, of Bridgewater, Somerset, died at St Mark’s Hospital, Brighton from septic poisoning following an operation after double pneumonia. He joined up in May 1917, and he was wounded in the great offensive in March 1918. He leaves a widow and son. Much sympathy is felt with his aged parents, this being their third son to fall, two having been killed in action on September 3rd, 1916. The two surviving sons are members of the Cardiff City Police.”

Henry is buried at the Cathays Cemetery in Cardiff. His Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone bears the inscription “Thy will be done” and there is also a stone to mark the passing of his widow, Margaret, on 7th April 1987, aged 95. Henry is also remembered on the Cardiff City Police War Memorial at the Cardiff Bay Police Station.

As mentioned in the newspaper report, two of Henry’s brothers were both killed on the same day, 3rd September 1916. It appears from the records of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission that their details are as follows:

- Private 16632 T.W. Porter, 7th Battalion, Somerset Light Infantry, who was 37 years of age. He was stated to be the husband of Ada Mary Porter, of Rhode Lane, Durleigh, Bridgwater, Somerset. He is buried at Bernafay Wood British Cemetery, Montauban on the Somme.
Lance Corporal 16634 Charles Henry Porter, 7th Battalion, Somerset Light Infantry, who was 39 years of age. He was stated to be the son of Esau and Elizabeth Porter, and husband of Eva Sophia Porter, of Cranbrook, British Columbia. He is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing of the Somme.

10TH MARCH

PC 679 HENRY GEORGE EVANS
GLAMORGAN CONSTABULARY
SERGEANT 26474
ROYAL GARRISON ARTILLERY

Henry was one of many who died after the end of the war. It’s natural that we concentrate to a large extent on those who lost their lives in battles or as a
consequence of wounds sustained in them. However, we should also ensure that men like Henry are not forgotten.

He was born in Ashtead, a village in Surrey which lies between Leatherhead and Epsom. Whilst there are discrepancies in the records as to his year of birth with some giving it as 1889 and others as 1891 it’s clear from birth records that the latter is correct. The record of his baptism which took place at St. Giles Church in Ashtead on 28th April 1891, gives his date of birth as 18th March 1891.

His father was George Thomas Evans, who was a policeman in 1891 according to that year’s census. He had been born in Lambeth in London. Henry’s mother was Frances and she was originally from Gosport in Hampshire. Also in the household at that time, in addition to Henry, were his older sister, Rosena, and his older brother, Charles.

By the time of the census of 1901 the family had moved from Ashtead to Warwick Street, Hanover Square in London. Henry’s father was then described as working as a cook in a hotel.

Sometime afterwards Henry became a steward as that is the occupation given on his attestation papers when, on 23rd March 1907 at Hounslow in London, he enlisted in the regular army. It seems that he had previously been in the 1st City of London Volunteers of the Royal Garrison Artillery and also in a reserve unit, 5th Battalion, Royal Fusiliers.

Following enlistment Henry served as a gunner in the 35th Heavy Battery of the Royal Garrison Artillery and at the time of the census of 1911 he was based at Fort Nelson at Fareham in Hampshire. This was one of several nineteenth century forts built on a hill overlooking Portsmouth as part of the defences for the important naval base.

By December 1912 Henry had decided to leave the regular army and applied for his discharge which was granted. He was then transferred to the army reserve and joined the Glamorgan Constabulary in 1913.

It was not long, however, before he had to return to army life. He was stationed as a constable at Tonypandy when
Britain declared war on Germany on 4th August 1914. Henry was immediately recalled to the Colours as a reservist and was mobilised at Gosport on 5th August.

He re-joined his old unit, 35th Heavy Battery, and went with them to France in August.

The role of the heavy batteries was mainly to destroy the artillery batteries of the enemy but they were also used to attack roads, railways, storage dumps and important targets behind the enemy’s lines. They were equipped with large 60lb guns which in the early part of the war were horse drawn.

The 35th provided heavy artillery support for the 2nd Division of the British Expeditionary Force in France and as such was involved in the early battles of the war at Mons (and the retreat from it), the Marne and the First Battle of Ypres.

Henry suffered with health problems and returned to Britain in January 1915 and did not go back to France until March 1916 when he was posted to 120th
Heavy Battery. He then had further illnesses and spent periods in hospital in France and in Britain.

In September 1917 he was posted to Number 3 Royal Artillery Training Depot in India, but prior to leaving he married Isabella Frances Villaum (sometimes spelt Villaume) at the Parish Church of South Bersted in Sussex on 16th July 1917. She was a widow, aged 31, who had been born in Stockwell in London.

Correspondence on Henry’s army service record file indicates that she was a midwife and health visitor. The record also states that Henry’s step daughter by the marriage was Julia Cecilia who had been born on 13th July 1910.

Henry’s qualities were recognised during his service as he was promoted to Lance Corporal, Corporal and Sergeant.

On 1st March 1919 Henry was admitted to the University War Hospital in Southampton where he died of pneumonia on 10th March.

Henry is buried at Melcome Regis Cemetery in Weymouth. The inscription on the headstone states that it is:

“From his loving wife and mother
Thy Will be Done”

There are 142 First World War burials in the cemetery, 83 of which are of members of the Australian Forces who had a depot in Weymouth during the War.

Henry is also remembered on the Glamorgan Police War Memorial.
Patrick was an Irishman who was born in March 1881 in the parish of Churchill, Tralee, in County Kerry.

He enlisted in the British Army on 15th September 1903 at Tralee, joining the Irish Guards. His previous employment was as a groom.

He served in the army until September 1906 and then in 1908 he joined the Swansea Borough Police as Constable 121.

At the time of the census of 1911 Patrick was based at the Central Police Station in Orchard Street in Swansea. Others there at the time included PC Frank Coffey who was to die in the Middle East in 1917 and PC Jack Randall Birch who was to be killed in action in France in 1916.

On 30th April 1913, Patrick, then aged 32, and stationed at Landore Police Station in Swansea, married Lillie Holmes, aged 25, at St. Joseph’s Roman Catholic Church in Swansea. Lillie was then living at The Close, Kington, (in Herefordshire) and was the manageress of a restaurant. From the marriage certificate it appears that Patrick’s father was also called Patrick and was a farm labourer whilst Lillie’s father, William Henry Holmes, was a master painter and decorator.

On one occasion during his police service, Patrick’s previous experience of working with horses no doubt stood him in good stead. The Cambria Daily Leader reported on 11th July 1914:

“Prompt Policeman-On Thursday afternoon, a horse and cart belonging to Mr. J. D. Jones, builder and contractor, Swansea was proceeding along Sketty road, when a tramcar collided with the cart. The startled horse bolted, but PC (121) Shea caught the bridle and succeeded in pulling the animal up.”

When Britain declared war on Germany on 4th August 1914 Patrick was recalled to the Colours as a reservist and rejoined the Irish Guards. He landed in France on 13th August and was involved in the early fighting as the South Wales Weekly Post reported on 26th September 1914:
“There are several members of the Swansea Borough Police Force fighting for their country, and they have all been in the fighting line with the Irish Guards, the South Wales Borderers, the Dorsets, and the King’s Own Rifles. No news has been received in Swansea as to PC’s Rouse, O’Shea, and J. Price, who all fought at Mons at the same time as poor Appleton.”

“Appleton” was PC 190 Albert Appleton of the Dorsetshire Regiment who was killed in action on 24th August 1914 (see the South Wales Police booklet for 1914).

Then on 21st November 1914, the same newspaper brought news of the wounding of Patrick in action:

“News has been received in Swansea by his comrades that PC Patrick Shea is now lying at a base hospital in France suffering from a shrapnel wound. Those who know the officer say he would make light of his injuries, and this is the substance of his letters home. PC Shea is a popular member of the Swansea Borough Police Force, and was one of the first to leave for the front.”

From Patrick’s army records it appears that he was wounded in action near Ypres on 29th October 1914 and was admitted to Number 13 General Hospital at Boulogne. It seems that after treatment he returned to service but was eventually posted to the 3rd (Reserve) Battalion of the Irish Guards.

In November 1918 Patrick became sick with what turned out to be tuberculosis and was admitted to the War Hospital in Bath in December 1918. As a result of subsequent examinations his condition was recognised as serious and he was medically discharged from the army on 18th January 1919.

On 6th May 1919 Patrick was awarded a Silver War Badge in recognition of the fact that he had been discharged from active service on medical grounds.

Sadly just a few days later on Saturday 10th May 1919, Patrick died at his home in Terrace Road, Swansea. The South Wales Weekly Post of 17th May reported:

“SWANSEA CONSTABLE’S DEATH-The death took place on Saturday evening of PC Patrick Shea, at his home, Terrace road,
Swansea from consumption of the throat. The deceased, who was aged 37, was a native of County Kerry, and before joining the Swansea Borough Police Force in March 1908, served in the Irish Guards, being discharged in September 1906. He was recalled to the colours on August 4th, 1914, and received serious wounds in France. He was discharged a few months ago, but had not resumed policeman’s duties since his discharge owing to failing health.”

Patrick’s death was registered by his brother, John, who lived in Field Terrace, Taibach, Port Talbot. Patrick’s army service record indicates that he had three other brothers, Thomas, Michael and Edward and two sisters, Lizzie and Mary.

Patrick’s name appears on the Swansea Borough Police War Memorial in the present Swansea Central Police Station. However, there is no record of his death with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission or in “Soldiers Died in the Great War” even though he appears to have died of illness contracted during his war service.

Until recently it was not known where Patrick was buried but research has revealed that his grave is at Danygraig Cemetery in Swansea. Also buried there is his wife’s mother, Emmeline Holmes.
South Wales Police is currently gathering information about the many police officers from our predecessor forces of Glamorgan, Swansea, Merthyr Tydfil, Neath and Cardiff who served in the armed forces during the First World War.

We want to ensure we uncover as much information as possible about our proud history, and the many men who served both the force and their country to ensure they are never forgotten.

All the stories and information collected, including photographs, letters and newspaper coverage from that time will be shared online and on Facebook.

To make a contribution please email: policemuseum@south-wales.pnn.police.uk

FIRST WORLD WAR PROJECT GROUP

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