

THE GREAT WAR CENTENARY

1914-1918  2014-2018

1914



LEST WE FORGET

REMEMBERED WITH PRIDE IN 2014
THOSE WHO DIED IN 1914

INTRODUCTION

A hundred years ago on 4th August 1914, Britain entered the First World War following Germany's invasion of Belgium.

It was to be a war the like of which had not been seen before. Millions fought and died.

Several hundred police officers from our predecessor forces of Glamorgan, Cardiff, Swansea, Merthyr and Neath served in the armed forces. In total 90 officers died. Many were wounded. Some were recognised for their gallantry.

South Wales Police is committed to remembering the bravery and sacrifice of those who served. In doing so, we have taken as our guiding message the words "Remembered with Pride".

They come from a letter written to the mother of PC Edwin Samuel Brown, a Cardiff City officer who was killed in action on 27th September 1918 in northern France aged 27. The letter from his commanding officer says this:

"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."

As we mark the centenary over the next four years we will, each year, remember all those from our predecessor forces who died. This booklet seeks to tell the stories of those who died in 1914 and is the result of extensive research by South Wales Police's First World War Project Group. It is hoped to produce similar booklets for each of the next centenary years.

All of the officers referred to would have played important roles in their communities. Their service as police officers and their ultimate sacrifice during the War deserve to be recognised. We owe them nothing less than that.

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

Peter Vaughan

Chief Constable, South Wales Police

FIRST WORLD WAR PROJECT GROUP

The Group was established in order to enable the Force to participate in the commemorations to mark the centenary of the First World War.

It has undertaken extensive research in newspapers, archives and other records to build a picture of what it was like to be a police officer at that time. It is particularly keen to explore the personal stories of those who served in the armed forces, especially those who made the ultimate sacrifice. However, the Group also wants to examine what it was like to police the “home front” during the years of the War bearing in mind the impact which the enlistment of so many serving police officers had on the policing of the communities of South Wales.

The Group has so far:

- Established a database of information in relation to the officers who died
- Gathered together information on other officers and policing
- Produced a leaflet on its activities
- Arranged for a wreath of poppies to be placed at the Menin Gate at Ypres in memory of former officers

commemorated on it.

- Arranged for remembrance crosses to be placed on the graves of a number of former officers buried in Belgium and for the graves to be photographed.
- Produced articles for the Force’s magazine “Billboard” and media releases which have resulted in newspaper and website articles.
- Created a commemorative display for the foyer of Police Headquarters in Bridgend.
- Worked with the Force’s estates department to have the Headquarters War Memorial restored.
- Established links with other bodies such as Glamorgan Archives, the Western Front Association, and local heritage groups and also with relatives of former officers.

The Group intends to continue with its work for the remainder of the centenary so that the history of policing in South Wales during the First World War can be explored and shared with the communities which the modern force serves.

Gareth Madge

Chair, First World War Project Group

1914 A SUMMARY

28TH JUNE

The Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir to the throne of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, and his wife Sophie, are assassinated by a Serbian nationalist in Sarajevo. Austria-Hungary blames Serbia and the ensuing dispute triggers alliances between Austria-Hungary and Germany on the one hand and France, Russia and Great Britain on the other which eventually lead to war.

28TH JULY

Austria-Hungary declares war on Serbia.

1ST AUGUST

Germany declares war on Russia.

3RD AUGUST

Germany declares war on France.

4TH AUGUST

German forces invade Belgium. Britain declares war on Germany in defence of Belgium's neutrality which it had guaranteed.

7TH AUGUST

the British Army's Expeditionary Force (BEF) of over 80,000 men begins to cross to France to assist in halting the advance of German forces.

11TH AUGUST

posters appear advertising the appeal of Lord Kitchener, Secretary of State for War, for volunteers to increase the size of the British Army. Within two weeks 100,000 had volunteered. Ultimately there would be over 2.5 million volunteers.

12TH AUGUST

Britain declares war on Austria-Hungary.

23RD AUGUST

Japan declares war on Germany.

23RD TO 26TH AUGUST

the BEF engages in its first action of the war during the Battle of Mons in Belgium. Although forced to retreat south to Le Cateau where it stands and fights it succeeds in delaying the German advance.

26TH TO 29TH AUGUST

Battle of Tannenberg in East Prussia where Germany inflicts defeat on Russian forces.

28TH AUGUST

the first naval action of the war off the coast of Germany when several German ships are sunk by the Royal Navy.

SEPTEMBER

British and French forces eventually halt the German advance on the River Marne some 50km east of Paris. This was the first Battle of the Marne or the “Miracle of the Marne” as the French described it. Allied forces then counter attack and drive the German army back to the River Aisne. The BEF suffer nearly 14,000 casualties during the Marne battle of whom some 7,000 are killed.

OCTOBER TO NOVEMBER

the so called “Race to the Sea” begins as each side moves northwards in France and Belgium to secure the Channel ports. There are a number of battles and the trench system which is to characterise the Western Front for the next four years stretching from Belgium to the Swiss border is developed. During this period there is a fierce and successful battle by the BEF to defend the Belgian town of Ypres (the “First Battle of Ypres”) during which a number of police officers from South Wales died.

Mons, Belgium 1914

5TH NOVEMBER

Britain and France declare war on Turkey which had allied itself with Germany and Austria-Hungary.

16TH DECEMBER

German warships bombard the east coast of England. Scarborough, Hartlepool and Whitby suffer during the attacks in which 137 are killed and many hundreds are injured.

24TH DECEMBER

British and German soldiers on the Western Front agree a “Christmas Truce” when the fighting is halted and soldiers from the opposing armies meet and exchange things like badges, cigarettes etc.



1914 ROLL OF HONOUR

24TH AUGUST

PC 90 ALBERT APPLETON

SWANSEA BOROUGH POLICE



Albert was born in Staines, Middlesex in 1889 to Henry and Harriet Appleton.

He became a regular soldier and served before the First World War in India as a Private and was a musician in the 2nd Battalion of the Dorsetshire Regiment.

He eventually left the Army and joined the Swansea Borough Police on 8th March 1913. He performed foot patrol duties in Swansea and was stationed at Landore Police Station where he also lived.

Local newspaper reports refer to Albert's activities as a constable. In one case he arrested a 64 year old woman for stealing four pairs of shoes from a shop in Woodfield Street in Morrision. Fining her £5 the Court Chairman described her as an "incorrigible character" due to her previous appearances before the court and her six convictions for larceny.

On another occasion Albert together with a colleague rescued an 11 year old boy from a slag tip near Morrision after he had been overcome by fumes from the tip.

In keeping with his previous service in the Army, Albert was a member of the Police Band, playing the clarinet.

As an Army reservist, Albert was re-called to serve at the commencement of war on 4th August 1914 and joined the 1st Battalion of the Dorsetshire Regiment which was mobilised as part of the 5th Division of the British Expeditionary Force. The Battalion was then based in Northern Ireland and on 14th August sailed on the SS Antony from Belfast to Le Havre in France where it arrived on the 16th.

The Battalion then took part in the battle at Mons in Belgium which sought to halt the advance of the German armies into France. During the fierce fighting which ensued on 24th August amongst those from the Battalion killed in action was Albert, who was by then a Lance Corporal.

He was 25 years of age when he died and single although it appears that he was engaged to a woman from Swansea and they had intended marrying at the end of 1914.

In reporting Albert's death the South Wales Weekly Post on 26th September 1914 recalled that when Albert had re-joined the Army he had "a send off at Landore Police Station." One of his fellow officers had said that Albert "would return with the VC". The report states that Albert "replied with much gusto that Victoria Cross or no it would be a glorious death to fall fighting the country's cause." The report concluded by saying "His companions have lost a good pal".

At its meeting on 29th September 1914 the Swansea Watch Committee expressed regret at Albert's death and passed a vote of sympathy with his relatives and appreciation of his services.

Albert is buried at the Communal Cemetery in the village of Houdain Lez Bavay in Northern France. His is the only Commonwealth War Grave in the Cemetery.

14TH-16TH SEPTEMBER

PC ALBERT MORGAN CAMFIELD CARDIFF CITY POLICE



Albert was born at Maindee, Newport and served with the Cardiff City Police. He joined 2nd

Battalion, Grenadier Guards following the outbreak of war. On 12th August 1914, the Battalion left Chelsea Barracks in London for Southampton from where they sailed on the "Cawdor Castle" for Le Havre where they arrived the following afternoon. The Battalion took part in the Battle of the Aisne between 14th and 16th September when it suffered a number of casualties killed, wounded or missing. It was during this period that Albert was killed in action.

The "Glamorgan Gazette" for 19th March 1915 reported:

"In addition to its roll of honour containing several hundreds of names of the old boys who have joined the colours, the Maindee Boys' School, Newport, has also a large laurel wreath in the

school in memory of the old boys who have fallen. The wreath was laid in position on St David's Day, and three cards are already attached in memory of Private A. Camfield, Grenadier Guards, and a member of the Cardiff Police Force, Artificer A. Deacon, HMS Bulwark, and Gunner A. Cronk, HMS Good Hope”.

Albert is commemorated on the La Ferte-sous-Jouarre Memorial to the Missing on the bank of the River Marne near the main road to Paris.

25TH OCTOBER

PC FRANK FORD CARDIFF CITY POLICE



Frank was born at Gosport, Hampshire on 21st March 1888, the only son of Elijah and Emily Jane Ford. He was educated at West Monkton, Somerset before joining the Coldstream Guards on 22nd March 1906, serving for 7 years until 1913 when he left the regular army but remained a reservist. He then joined the Cardiff City Police and was stationed at Canton in the city. On mobilisation of the

army in August 1914 he re-joined the 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards landing in France on 30th August. By 25th October the Battalion was in the vicinity of Zillebeke and Langemarck in Belgium and during the intense fighting of what has become known as the first Battle of Ypres, Frank was killed in action on 25th October 1914. He was 26 years of age and single. He is commemorated on the Menin Gate Memorial in Ypres.

1ST NOVEMBER

PC 246 JAMES EDWIN PRICE GLAMORGAN CONSTABULARY

James was born in Hereford and served in the regular army before the First World War. He joined the Glamorgan Constabulary after leaving the army and was stationed at Barry and Penarth before being re-called for army service as a reservist in August 1914. He served with the 18th (Queen Mary's Own) Hussars and landed in France on 15th August.

A letter which he wrote on 25th September 1914 said:

“We are still very busy attacking a strongly fortified German position. We have been here a week now but I expect they will

be flying shortly and if they do get routed we shall finish for a while. Yesterday a shell burst in our trench quite near my section and my left hand man was struck by a piece of shrapnel which shattered his arm, but I carried him away to the hospital from where he was sent to England. He was very brave through all the pain he must have endured. I know God will spare me, for He has brought me out of some very tight corners during the past week, especially yesterday when the enemy were firing at us with their large siege guns. Sunday is a noted day for fighting. Every Sunday since we have been here we have been hotly engaged with the enemy. I am writing this letter in the house which had been previously occupied by the Germans, who took everything in it, leaving the people without a bite of food or clothes, but this has happened in every village entered by the enemy.

The distress of the people is terrible and the British help them as far as possible with food etc., from their own supplies.”

A Lance Corporal, James was killed in action on 1st November 1914 and is buried at Lille

Southern Cemetery in Northern France.

2ND NOVEMBER

PC 31 THOMAS EVANS

MERTHYR BOROUGH POLICE



Tom Evans was born in 1878 at Cannon Bridge, Hereford. He served with the Merthyr Borough Police. He was stationed at Treharris and for a

number of years had been a detective constable at Merthyr central police station where he was also a member of the football team. He had previously served in the South African (Boer) War and had received the King's and Queen's Medals.

Tom enlisted in Cardiff after the outbreak of the First World War and after joining 2nd Battalion, Grenadier Guards went to France on 12th September. He died of wounds, aged 36, on 2nd November 1914 and is buried at Poperinghe Old Military Cemetery, Belgium. His grave bears the inscription "Thy Will be Done". He was married to Kate Evans of 15 St. Tydil's Avenue, Merthyr.

4TH NOVEMBER

PC 609 WILLIAM JOHN THOMAS

CARDIFF CITY POLICE AND
GLAMORGAN CONSTABULARY



He was born at Maindy, Glamorgan and enlisted at Cardiff. He served in the Cardiff City Police and

then in the Glamorgan Constabulary, stationed at Port Talbot. He joined the 2nd Battalion, Grenadier Guards and landed in France on 13th August 1914. He was a sergeant and was killed in action on 4th November, 1914. He is commemorated on the Menin Gate Memorial at Ypres.

7TH NOVEMBER

PC BERT RICHARD CLEMETS

CARDIFF CITY POLICE



Bert was born on 20th April 1892 at Barry Dock to William and Elizabeth Clemets.

They lived at 30 Brook Street, Barry Dock. Bert's father had served with the King's Royal Rifles during the Afghan war and died in 1908. Bert was educated at local schools in Barry Dock and worked there for two years as a Post Office telegraph boy. He originally enlisted in the Royal Garrison Artillery before the war but as he was an only son his mother obtained his discharge. On 2nd January 1909 he joined the Grenadier Guards at Cardiff Barracks and served for three years before leaving to join the Cardiff City Police on 16th September 1912. He was stationed at Cathays and played for the force football team. At the outbreak of war he was called up as a reservist and landed in France on 22nd August. He served with the 2nd Battalion of the Grenadier Guards throughout the retreat from Mons and at the Battle of the Aisne. He was killed by shrapnel at Zillebeke near Ypres on 7th November 1914.

The "Barry Dock News" reported Bert's death on 20th November saying:

"The deceased young man was the only son of Mrs Elizabeth Clemets, a widow....and it is a pathetic coincidence that just

at the time when the painful intelligence was received, the mother was preparing a parcel of cakes, sweets, and cigarettes to dispatch to her soldier-son at the Front."

The report went to say that Bert "was to have been married at Christmas to a Torquay young lady."

On 11th December 1914, the "Barry Dock News" published the text of a letter which Lance Corporal A Hunt of the Grenadier Guards had written to Bert's mother:

"We know only too well your feelings of sorrow. Still you should be proud of your son. He was always a brave man. It was on November 7th, at about 3.30pm, that he was killed. We were being attacked, and I had been out of the trench.

On coming back I saw some dead Germans, and Clem, your son, and I watched them for some time. Clem and I always tried to keep together, and whilst we were re-entering the trench he stood upright against a tree. As I was passing-there wasn't much room-I bent my head down quickly, and at once it became covered with dust.

I looked at Clem, and could see

he had been hit, but did not know how badly, until I laid him on the ground.

Then I could see that a piece of shell from a shrapnel had struck him. When I unbuttoned his jacket and saw a hole as large as my fist under his heart, I said to our section, "Clem is done." He was killed outright. We all deeply regret his death, for he was such a good comrade and soldier.

I know in time you will be happy to know you had a son such as Clem, to die for his country."

It seems that Bert and a near neighbour of his in Brook Street, a Private Edwin Durman of the Welsh Regiment, were killed within days of each other.

In life they lived on the same street; in death they are commemorated on the same memorial (Menin Gate, Ypres).

In February 1915 the "Barry Dock News" reported that Bert's name had featured at the head of the Roll of Honour at the Annual Concert of the Cardiff City Police and on 5th November that year the same newspaper carried the following "In Memoriam" notice:

"CLEMENTS - In loving memory of B.R. Clements, the beloved

and only son of Mrs Clements, 30, Brook Street, Barry Docks, who was killed in action on November 7th, 1914, at Zillebeke, near Ypres-Gone but not forgotten."

10TH NOVEMBER

PC 44 ALFRED FREDERICK LEONARD

MERTHYR BOROUGH POLICE



Alfred Leonard was born in the St Phillip's district of Bristol in about 1890. He was the son of Guy Champion Leonard of 252 Easton Road, Easton, Bristol. At the outbreak of the First World War as a reservist he re-joined 2nd Battalion of the Grenadier Guards and served with them in France and Belgium. He had been a constable in the Merthyr Borough Police and a contemporary newspaper report describes him as "one of the most popular members of the force", and "a prominent member of the football team." Also on 10th October 1914, the "Merthyr Pioneer" newspaper carried the text of a letter to a friend written by Alfred from "somewhere in France":

"We have had a bit of fun out here, but you have got to "get down to it". It is their shells that are doing the damage, but we are not having many casualties. Syd Herbert (a former member of the Glamorgan Constabulary) was killed the other week. I am "tumbling in" with a chap from Dowlais.

The enemy is occupying a ridge of hills like the Aberdare mountains, and we are, as it were, at Dowlais, trying to shift them. Our guns are not half dropping them over! It is a fine sight, especially at night. I don't think it will last long after we have driven them from this position. According to the prisoners we have taken they are "fed up", and they "down" their arms and walk into our lines. It's like being in Wales to hear the people talking out here, and with regard to money, it's like going through a medical examination every time I go into a shop."

The report goes on to say that PC Tom Evans also of the Merthyr force, was in the trenches nearby.

Alfred was killed in action on 10th November 1914, aged 24. He is commemorated on the Menin Gate Memorial at Ypres.

10TH NOVEMBER

**PC THOMAS
LEMUEL JONES**
CARDIFF CITY POLICE



He was born at Cwmrheidol, Aberystwyth, the son of Thomas and Ann Jones of Nant Byr,

Ystumtuan, Ponterwyd, Aberystwyth. He enlisted at Bridgend and served with the 2nd Battalion, Grenadier Guards. He was killed in action on 10th November 1914. He was 21 years of age. He is commemorated on the Menin Gate Memorial at Ypres.

12TH NOVEMBER

**PC 691 SIDNEY
WILLIAM GOODLIFFE**
GLAMORGAN CONSTABULARY

Sidney was born in Cardiff in about 1886, the son of Josiah Edward Goodliffe and Sarah Ann Goodliffe of 26 Newfoundland Road, Heath, Cardiff. His father had served as a Sergeant Major in the Royal Garrison Artillery before the War.

Sidney joined the army in 1904 and served in India and later in South Africa and Egypt. On leaving the army he joined the Glamorgan Constabulary and was stationed at Pentre in the Rhondda. Sidney had a brother who was a boot repairer of Cardiff Road, Aberaman. Another brother, Albert, was a sergeant in the Welsh Regiment. As a reservist Sidney re-joined the army and was a Lance Corporal in the 2nd Battalion of the Welsh Regiment when he was killed in action on 12th November 1914. The "Aberdare Leader" in reporting his death said that he had previously been wounded twice and that after he had returned to the trenches he had been shot through the head and killed. He was 28 years of age and is commemorated on the Menin Gate Memorial in Ypres.

15TH NOVEMBER

PC FRANK WILLIS
CARDIFF CITY POLICE



Frank was born in Minehead, Somerset, the son of Andrew and Amelia Willis in about

1886. He served with the Cardiff City Police and had been stationed at Janet Street in the Splott area of the City. At the beginning of the war Frank joined the Coldstream Guards and was with the 3rd Battalion when it landed at Le Havre on 12th August 1914. During November the 3rd Battalion occupied trenches at Polygon Wood, Ypres. It was a period of intense cold and snow and heavy German sniper fire. Frank was killed in action on 15th November. The “Aberdare Leader” of 5th December reported his death as follows:

“Sad news has reached the Cosmo Club. One of the members, Mr Frank Willis (Coldstream Guards was killed in action on November 19th. Mr Willis was a member of the Cardiff City Police Force, and accompanied his regiment to France in the early days of the War. He fought at Mons, the Aisne and La Bassee and Ypres. A letter came from him only a few days before his death stating that he had seen some exciting times, and nearly all his pals were either killed or wounded. They were making the trenches comfortable. He had plenty of cigarettes, but would like a few*

Welsh cakes. These were at once packed off, as well as good socks, etc.

He said that a big battle was developing, and we understand that it was the charge of the Prussian Guards that proved fatal to him.

Some of his pals who were invalided home said that Frank was well and in the best of spirits when they left. Mr Willis was popular at the Cosmo Club. He was a particular friend of Mr Joseph Bluett, the Instructor to the Civil Guard and Old Pals Brigade.”

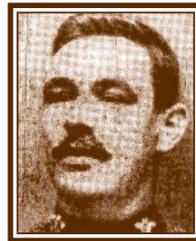
(the correct date is 15th November)*

Frank is buried at Railway Chateau Cemetery in Belgium. On his grave are the words, “Peace Perfect Peace/With Loved Ones Far Away”.

17TH NOVEMBER

PC WALTER JOHN TWINING

CARDIFF CITY POLICE



Walter was born in Swindon and served with the Cardiff City Police. He went to

France with the 10th (Prince of Wales' Own Royal) Hussars with which he had served before the war. On 17th November 1914, the 10th Hussars were attacked by a German force whilst occupying trenches between Hooze and Zillebeke near Ypres. Walter, a Lance Corporal, was one of ten Hussars killed during this action. The "Cambria Daily Leader" of 23rd December reported:

"Intimation was received by his father on Tuesday that Police Constable James (sic) Twining, formerly of the Cardiff City Force, who re-joined his old regiment, the 10th Hussars, and proceeded to the front, was killed in action on November 17th. Twining was a very capable young officer, and as a recruit a few years ago distinguished himself in a midnight hunt for a burglar who had broken into the Alexandra Hotel."

Walter was a member of the Cardiff force's football team and on 4th April 1914 the "Merthyr Pioneer" reported that during a match between it and the Merthyr Police team which ended in a two all draw:

"One movement initiated by Twining, who broke through, and

passed to Lock, was deserving of a score, but Hollyman's shot hit against the Merthyr goalie."

It is sad to note that in addition to Walter three more of those who played in that match were to die during the War: Hollyman and Lock (Cardiff) and Leonard (Merthyr).

Walter is commemorated on the Menin Gate Memorial at Ypres.

21ST DECEMBER

PC HENRY ERNEST JAMES CARDIFF CITY POLICE

Henry was born at Cirencester and served in the Cardiff City Police. He went to France on 3rd December 1914 and was a sergeant with 1st Battalion, Gloucestershire Regiment when he was killed in action on 21st December 1914. He is buried at the Guards Cemetery, Windy Corner, Cuinchy in Northern France.

REMEMBRANCE



This Memorial Plaque is now in the Cardiff Bay Police Station



This memorial is in the new Merthyr Police Station



The above plaque, commemorating those from the Swansea Borough Police who died during the First World War, is now in the Central Police Station, Grove Place, Swansea having been moved there from the former central police station at Alexandra Road. It was rededicated by the Bishop of Swansea and Brecon at a service held on 26th March 2002.

THE WAR MEMORIAL



The Unveiling of the War Memorial at Canton Police Station in 1925

The Memorial which now stands in front of the Main Building at force headquarters at Bridgend commemorates those members of the Glamorgan Constabulary who died during the First and Second World Wars. It originally stood outside Canton Police Station in Cardiff when the

headquarters of the Glamorgan force was based there.

The memorial was unveiled by Lieutenant Colonel Sir Rhys Williams at a ceremony held on 28th November 1925.



The Unveiling of the War Memorial at Police Headquarters, Bridgend in 1955

The present headquarters of South Wales Police originally formed the administrative buildings of the Royal Ordnance Factory which operated on the site during the Second World War. The Glamorgan Constabulary Headquarters moved there from Cardiff in 1947.

The Memorial was then also moved and was re-dedicated on its present site in 1955.

In conjunction with the commemoration of the centenary of the First World War work has recently been undertaken to renovate it.

THE GREAT WAR CENTENARY

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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

Gareth Madge (Chair),
Danny Richards, Robin Mellor, Peter Wright,
Paul Wood, Daryl Fahey,
Stephen Routledge, Emma Sainsbury, Allison Tennant,
Coral Cole and Michelle Cooper, together with Philip Davies of the Western Front Association.



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