

HEDDLU DE CYMRU • SOUTH WALES POLICE

RICHARD THOMAS

POLICEMAN • SPORTSMAN • SOLDIER



LEARN • ENGAGE • REMEMBER

INTRODUCTION

Not long ago I stood in Mametz Wood on the Somme. It was a bright, sunny, day but in the Wood it felt cold and unsettling.

It was here nearly a hundred years ago that Richard, “Dick”, Thomas died. Ahead of me was, what seemed to me, gently sloping ground that led to the Wood but to Dick and his comrades, facing a murderous hail of bullets, it must have been like the steepest of the mountains of Wales.

Many Welshmen died and many were injured both mentally and physically in the attacks on the Wood. Their bravery and suffering and its impact on the communities of Wales is rightly something that we continue to remember and to honour as exemplified by the magnificent Welsh Dragon Memorial that stands facing the Wood.

I have been privileged to Chair a Project Group in South Wales Police which has undertaken work to commemorate the efforts and sacrifices of those police officers from our predecessor forces of Glamorgan Constabulary, Cardiff City Police, Swansea Borough Police, Merthyr Borough Police and Neath Borough Police, who

served during the First World War. Ninety two of them, Dick Thomas included, made the ultimate sacrifice.

Much has been done so far to remember, in particular, those who died through the placing of crosses on individual graves and the laying of wreaths on memorials where those who fell and have no known grave are commemorated. Dick Thomas and others have been honoured in this way by the placing of such a wreath at the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing of the Somme.

I was, therefore, very pleased, when it was suggested that the new joint vehicle facility for Bridgend County Borough Council and South Wales Police should be named after one of our predecessor police officers who died during the war. In response I had no hesitation in putting forward the name of Dick Thomas. It was, to my mind, entirely appropriate that a man who had lived in Bridgend, was a police sergeant there, had played for the town's rugby club and had served with a Battalion of the Welsh Regiment which had drawn men from the area, including a

number of police officers stationed there, should be remembered in this way.

The facilities in the building are the very best and will, I'm sure, bring lasting benefits to both organisations. It is part of a world that is very far away from that in which Dick Thomas and his fellow police officers and soldiers fought and, in many cases, died. However, despite the great changes in the years that have gone by, it is important that we continue to recognise the sacrifices of those who have gone before us.

This booklet will, it is hoped, also play its part in remembering Dick Thomas and those who served with him in the police and in the army. It has been produced in conjunction with a display which will form a permanent feature of the new building - "Ty Richard Thomas." Dick Thomas and his generation have now passed away but they will not be forgotten.

Yn angof ni chant fod.

Gareth Madge OBE

Chair, First World War Project Group

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We gratefully acknowledge the assistance of Dick Thomas' grandson, Richard Thomas, particularly in providing photographs and other items regarding his grandfather. We also appreciate the support of other members of the family.

We would like to thank the Trustees of the Butetown History and Arts Centre, Cardiff, for their kind permission to reproduce the image of Jack Sullivan's painting "So Long Butty" or "So Long, Taff", Mametz Wood, 1916.

The assistance provided by Dr Jonathan Hicks is also appreciated as is the support of the Printing Department of South Wales Police in the creation of the display for Ty Richard Thomas and the production of this booklet.

SOUTH WALES POLICE FIRST WORLD WAR PROJECT GROUP

*The members of the Group are:
Gareth Madge, Chair,
Danny Richards, Robin Mellor,
Peter Wright, Paul Wood,
Daryl Fahey, Coral Cole,
Allison Tennant and Philip Davies of
the Western Front Association*

THE BATTLE FOR MAMETZ WOOD

At 7.30 in the morning of 1st July 1916 there commenced one of the bloodiest battles in British military history, the Battle of the Somme. On that first day alone there were nearly 60,000 British casualties of whom nearly 20,000 were killed. It was a battle that was to continue until November 1916 by which time the British had suffered nearly 420,000 casualties.

It was intended to break the stalemate on the Western Front by destroying German forces to enable the Allies to advance but, importantly, it was also designed to relieve the pressure on French forces which had been attacked earlier in the year by the Germans

at Verdun-a battle which was described as continuing “to bleed France dry.”

There had been a massive British artillery bombardment for eight days before 1st July which was intended to destroy German defensive positions and particularly the extensive barbed wire emplacements, in order to make the advance of the infantry that much easier. In the event the artillery barrage did not achieve the success it had been hoped for and so the soldiers who went on foot into the attack faced murderous fire especially from machine guns.

It was against a background of the initial stages of the offensive

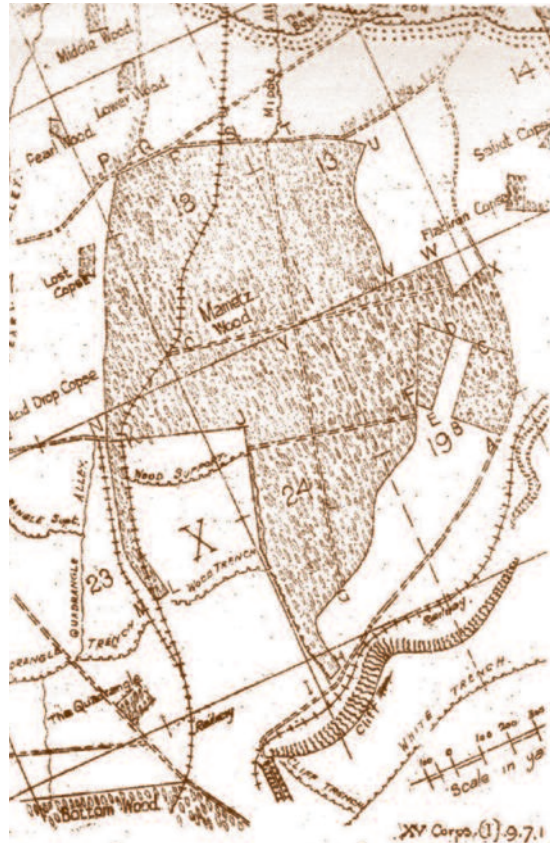


British artillery Fricourt-Mametz, August 1916 © IWM (Q5817)

making little or no progress that it fell to the 38th (Welsh) Division to attack and secure Mametz Wood.

The Division had its origins in the desire, spearheaded by David Lloyd George early in the War, to create a Welsh Army Corps. In the event, this did not fully materialise and the 38th Division was designated as a “Welsh” Division. It comprised three infantry brigades and supporting arms- 113th Brigade (battalions of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers), 114th Brigade (battalions of the Welsh Regiment) and 115th Brigade (battalions from the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, Welsh Regiment and South Wales Borderers). Police officers from South Wales were largely to be found in the battalions of the Welsh Regiment- 10th and 13th (1st and 2nd Rhondda), 14th (Swansea) and 16th (Cardiff City).

Mametz Wood was the biggest of the woods in the Somme area and situated near the villages of Fricourt and Mametz. It was about a mile wide and a mile deep. It was thick with trees and undergrowth and defended by German troops from a Prussian regiment.



*British Army map of Mametz Wood
9th July 1916*

The Welsh Division's offensive against the Wood began on 7th July when two attacks were made on its eastern edge by the 16th (Cardiff City) Battalion of the Welsh Regiment and the 10th and 11th Battalions of the South Wales Borderers. Despite the efforts and bravery of the attacking soldiers they were repelled by heavy machine gun fire from the Wood.

It was during these attacks that Glamorgan Policemen, Sergeant Richard ("Dick") Thomas and PC's Robert John Harris and William Edward Trinder, all of the Cardiff City Battalion, were killed.

The History of the Welsh Regiment describes the efforts of the Cardiff City Battalion and the South Wales Borderers to reach the Wood:

"At 8.30am on 7th July, when the guns ceased their bombardment, the front waves of the two battalions moved over the crest and advanced steadily down the slope, followed by successive waves.

It was not long before the enemy machine guns smote them hip and thigh, frontally from the wood and in enfilade from Flatiron and Sabot Copses, the 16th Welsh losing more heavily than the 10th SWB, since they were the more exposed. Pushing forward gallantly the foremost waves succeeded in reaching a line of shell holes about 200 yards from the edge of the wood, where they took cover. The enemy had concentrated their fire on the successive waves, as they came across the crest and annihilated them in turn.

The attack was definitely brought to a standstill. The guns again bombarded Mametz Wood at 11.15am and twice again the remnants of the two Battalions, some of whom had been withdrawn over the crest, and some of whom had not yet advanced, essayed to support their comrades nearer the wood. Major J. R. Angus personally directed every advance, exposing himself freely and showing a fine example of leadership and disregard of danger."

Eventually at 4.30pm the exhausted battalions were forced to withdraw.



MAJOR J.R. ANGUS

Major Angus was a former Glamorgan policeman who had served at

Barry amongst other places and was a sergeant in the force at the outbreak of the war. He joined the Cardiff City Battalion on its creation, along with other colleagues from the force, including F.W. "Fred" Smith who, as a Lieutenant Colonel,

commanded the Battalion at Mametz Wood. James Angus was to become Acting Commanding Officer of the 11th Battalion of the South Wales Borderers in 1917 before, later that year, he tragically drowned in a swimming accident.

The next attack on Mametz Wood came on 10th July and included the 14th (Swansea) and the 10th and 13th (Rhondda) Battalions of the Welsh Regiment. The attack was preceded by an artillery barrage which was intended to “creep” forward ahead of the advancing infantry, thus clearing the way for them.

The advance commenced at 4.15am and the History of the Welsh Division described it as:

“one of the most magnificent sights of the war. In the words of officers of a neighbouring division wave after wave of men were seen advancing without hesitation and without a break over a distance which in some places was nearly 500 yards.”

Amongst those from the Swansea Battalion who distinguished themselves was Lieutenant Frank Hawkins who had been a member

of the Glamorgan Constabulary prior to the war but left the Force to run a public house in Pontypridd. He played rugby for the Glamorgan Police team, for Pontypridd, and for Wales in two international matches in 1912, against Ireland and France. During the course of the battle he displayed great courage which earned him the award of the Military Cross, the citation for which in the London Gazette for 22nd September 1916 reads:

“Temp 2nd Lt. Frank James Hawkins Welsh Regt. for conspicuous gallantry in action. He attacked a hostile machine gun and killed the man working it. He showed great bravery till severely wounded.”



**LT FRANK
HAWKINS
MC**

On entering the Wood the troops found the going tough. The

war diary of the Swansea Battalion described it as “very thick and owing to the intense bombardment was most difficult to penetrate. The rides were



German ammunition wagons destroyed by British artillery fire in Mametz Wood July 1916 © IWM (Q874)

almost indistinguishable and it was difficult to keep direction.”

The fighting which followed in the Wood was bloody and intense and continued for the rest of the day. By the evening, however, the Welsh Division was in control of

most of the Wood. The exhausted soldiers dug in for the night.

The following day, 11th July, the Welsh made further attacks and that evening they were relieved by the 21st Division which proceeded on 12th July to



Mametz Wood, 10th August 1916 © IWM (Q860)



*Captured German gun, Mametz Wood
10th August 1916 © IWM (Q1038)*

complete the capture of the Wood following the withdrawal of the German troops. Ultimately success was achieved but it came at great cost. Nearly 4000 men of the Welsh Division were killed, wounded or missing.

Fred Smith, who had been a Glamorgan Police Inspector at Bridgend before the war but now commanded the Cardiff City Battalion, summed up the challenges faced by his men in a letter to a police colleague,



British Ambulance, Mametz Wood, July 1916 © IWM (Q4015)

Superintendent W. Davies of Bridgend, quoted in the “Western Mail” of 26th July 1916:

“We have passed through a very eventful period the last five weeks, and were in the heavy fighting of the 7th, 10th, 11th, and 12th of July. Our men acquitted themselves well, but many have fallen. I could say much more which would interest you, but the censor must be obeyed. We have lost eighteen out of our old officers, but modern shell and machine gun fire is such that the toll of the attackers must be great. My chaps took a machine gun from the big wood. I have it still on our wagons. Those infernal things are the most to be dreaded of all the modern engines of war, and take the greatest toll when resolutely fought.”

The fighting at Mametz Wood would touch communities across Wales - from remote hillside farms in Snowdonia, to villages in Carmarthenshire and to the towns and valleys of South Wales. Remembrance of the bravery and sacrifice of the men who were there has passed down the years and continues to the present day.

The Welsh Dragon Memorial at Mametz Wood



Mametz Wood today



RICHARD THOMAS THE POLICEMAN

Richard (or “Dick” as he was popularly known)

Thomas was a notable figure in the communities of South Wales through his service as a police officer and also his sporting prowess particularly as a Welsh international rugby player.

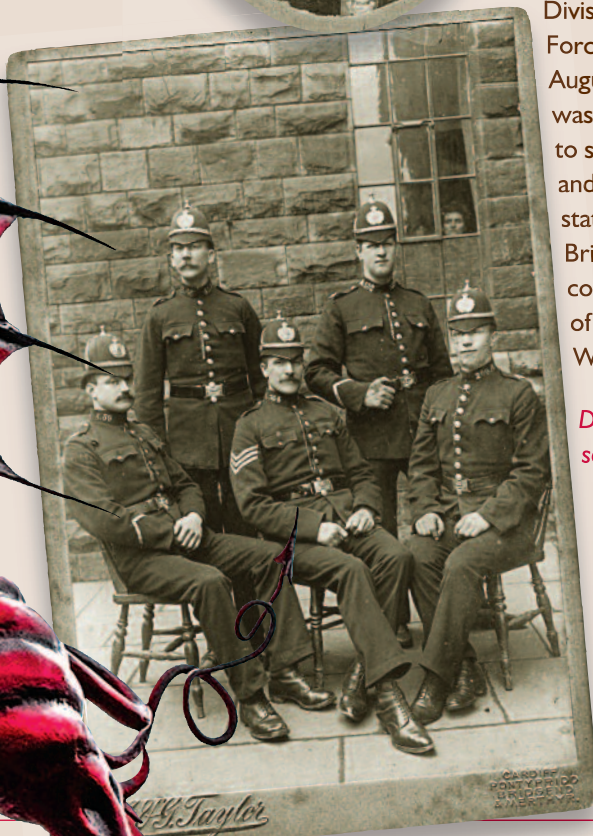


He was born at Ferndale on 14th October 1881

and joined the Glamorgan Constabulary on 4th November 1904. He previously worked as a collier. He served as a policeman in the Aberdare, Ystrad Mynach and Bridgend

Divisions of the Force. On 16th August 1913, he was promoted to sergeant and was stationed at Bridgend at the commencement of the First World War.

Dick Thomas is seated far right



RICHARD THOMAS THE SPORTSMAN

Dick Thomas made a name for himself as a rugby player in the years before the First World War. It was a time when the game was developing at club and international levels. The Welsh team was especially successful between 1900 and 1911, a period which has



become known as its first “Golden Era” when it won the Triple Crown six times and beat New Zealand in 1905 and Australia in 1908.

Dick played for several clubs—Ferndale, Penygraig, Cardiff, Mountain Ash, Llwynypia, and Bridgend—as well as for the Glamorgan Police team which had been established in 1897. He was described as a hard tackling forward who did not shirk the physical challenges of the game. His overall skill as a player though must have been considerable as he often substituted as a back for the police team. Another prominent rugby playing policeman of the era was Fred

Smith who played for the Glamorgan Police team and also Cardiff.

Dick was in the Glamorgan Police team which played the Welsh Regiment in January 1914. It was the first time that the Glamorgan side had played against a service team which was

regarded as one of the best in the army. However, the police team, which had four international players including Dick, won 9-3.

Dick also featured in the last match played by the Glamorgan Police before the First World War in March 1914. Ironically, it was against Dick’s old club, Ferndale. The police won 6-3, Dick scoring one of their two tries.

It was whilst playing for Mountain Ash that Dick won four international caps for Wales. The first was against South Africa in 1906 at St Helen’s, Swansea. It was a match Wales was widely expected to win, but, as it turned out, South Africa won 11-0.



Glamorgan Police team 1908, Dick Thomas seated second from right. Fred Smith is standing second from right back row.

His next international match was against France in March 1908 in Cardiff, the first between the two teams. Wales won comfortably on this occasion by 36 points to 4.

The final match of the 1907-08 season was against Ireland in Belfast and, again, Dick played at forward for Wales. After a close contest Wales eventually won 11-5, one of their tries being scored by Johnny Williams of Cardiff who was also to die at Mametz Wood. The victory against Ireland meant that Wales had won the “Grand

Slam” for the first time. Dick’s final international appearance was against Scotland in 1909, a match which Wales won 5-3.

In addition to his international matches, Dick also played for the Glamorgan County team on several occasions, including their matches against New Zealand in 1905, South Africa in 1906 and Australia in 1908.

Whilst Dick Thomas was highly regarded in rugby circles as a hard playing and skilful forward, he was also a notable boxer winning the



Glamorgan Police team 1912-13, Dick Thomas seated third from right middle row.

Glamorgan Police heavyweight championship on three occasions. In addition he won the Glamorgan and Monmouthshire Constabularies assault at arms competition in 1909.

The “Western Mail” of 4th March 1914 carried a report of an assault at arms competition held at the Park Hall, Cardiff in which Dick fought against a Constable Oliver Williams of the Newport Police in



Wales Grand Slam Team 1908, Dick Thomas third player from left, back row.



Dick Thomas' sporting trophies

the semi final with the referee stopping the fight in the first round in favour of Dick. He had been due to fight against a fellow Glamorgan Police officer, PC Charles Hutchings of Whitchurch, in the final but Hutchings had been injured during his semi final contest and withdrew. Dick was, therefore, declared the winner and presented with what the report described as “ a valuable silver cup.”

Dick had, however, been less successful at the fifth Welsh Amateur Boxing Championships held, at the Park Hall, Cardiff the previous month, February 1914, when he had contested the final of the heavy weight championship

with a W.H. Bradley of Cardiff after Dick had, in the words of the “Western Mail” report of 16th February, “knocked out W. Scott (St James’s Newport) with two punches” in the semi final. It was, however, another story in the final as the report continues:

“Dick Thomas had to face a redoubtable opponent in W. H. Bradley (of Cardiff) in the final. Bradley.... looked very little troubled when Thomas started shooting punches at him with right and left. When the old international tired perceptibly Bradley opened out in really classy style. A shower of upper cuts and straight lefts soon sent Thomas to the boards. Before the end of the round Bradley became the first heavy weight amateur of Wales.”

RICHARD THOMAS THE SOLDIER



Dick Thomas with his wife and daughter

Along with many other Glamorgan policemen Dick Thomas joined the 16th Battalion of the Welsh Regiment after the outbreak of the war. Among those who also did so were Inspector F.W. (“Fred”) Smith and Sergeant J.R. Angus both of whom had been members of the Glamorgan Police rugby team.



J.R. Angus and Fred Smith in their rugby playing days far from the battlefields of France

Dick joined as a private soldier in January 1915 but his qualities of leadership were soon recognised and he was in due course promoted to be company sergeant major.

He landed in France with the 16th Battalion as part of 115th Brigade, 38th (Welsh) Division on 4th December 1915. During its early days on the Western Front the battalion suffered casualties including its then Commanding

Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Frank Gaskell who was shot by a sniper and died of his wounds on 17th May 1916. He was buried the following day and the Battalion War Diary records that Fred Smith and Dick Thomas were among those who attended.

It was during the Cardiff City Battalion’s attack on Mametz Wood amidst heavy fire that Dick Thomas became one of nearly 300 casualties the Battalion suffered that day. Many years later a surviving veteran of the attack, William Davies, described what he saw in an interview with the BBC re-broadcast in August 2014:

“I remember one man, he was an old Welsh rugby international forward. CSM Dick Thomas from Mountain Ash. He was CSM in the Cardiff City Battalion. He was a big, huge man. Lying down in front of me, not far in front of me and he got up on his knees and two hands you know, knees on the ground. Went down head to the ground. Killed like that. Just in front of me. And I hid behind him all day.”

Dick’s Glamorgan Police colleague and Commanding Officer of his

Battalion, Fred Smith, wrote to his widow on 15th July 1916:

"I am deeply grieved to tell you that your husband, my old friend Dick, was killed in action on the 7th July whilst attacking a wood. He died at once and did not suffer. I had already recommended him for the Military Cross for his gallantry and splendid example to his men. Poor Sergeant Harris (late of our force) was killed at the same time, and of course many others in the Battalion. We all miss Dick's smiling face, and wish he could return to us, and we all extend to you our sincere sympathy on this your great loss, yours, Fred Smith, Lieutenant-colonel, O.C."



*Fred Smith as
Commanding
Officer of the
Cardiff City
Battalion*

The Glamorgan Gazette for 21st July 1916 carried the following report under the heading "Local Constabulary Heroes-International Footballer Killed":

"The terribleness of the war is being brought home to us lately in Bridgend." Thus said the Rector of Coity (Rev. T.P. Price), writing from Cardiganshire, in a sympathetic letter to the bereaved widow of Company-Sergeant-Major Richard Thomas, of Bridgend, formerly a member of the Glamorgan Constabulary; and the truth of this remark is almost daily insistently being brought home to us, as one family after another is plunged into grief, and the community, knowing the families and the circumstances, is called upon to mourn with the mourners. The first announcement of the death of Company-Sergeant-Major Richard Thomas came from Regimental Sergeant Major John Thomas, who was his fellow police sergeant at Bridgend. In a letter to his wife, written on July 10th and received on Saturday afternoon, Company Sergeant Major John Thomas said:—"Just a line to let you know I am all right. Wish I could say the same about all the other boys. Poor Dick Thomas was killed yesterday morning where the big fighting that you read about in the newspapers is going on. Captain Herdman and he were leading the company into action,

and Dick was about the first to be knocked over. The captain was wounded. Bob Harris was also killed near the same spot. Trinder was wounded and is now in hospital. No doubt it will be a terrible shock to Mrs. Thomas. Colonel Smith is all right, but we are very much upset over the loss of Dick. He used to keep the lot of us alive with his jokes.”“

The “Bob Harris” referred to (also exceedingly popular amongst the officers and men of the Glamorgan Constabulary) was formerly Sergt. R. J. Harris, who was stationed at Aberkenfig, and for a time at Nantymoel, and whose home was at Llechwaun Farm, Ynysybwll. Both were in the same battalion of the Welsh Regiment, joining with Inspector Fred Smith. “Trinder” is PC William Trinder who was stationed at Caerau, Maesteg. His home is in Gloucestershire. Captain Herdman, who was wounded in the abdomen and both arms, is a Bridgend boy, and a son of the late Mr. J. Herdman, mining engineer to the Dunraven Estate, a position to which a few years ago Capt. Herdman succeeded on the death of his father.”

The report concluded with these remarks about Dick Thomas:

“Only a few weeks ago he spent a brief furlough with his family at Bridgend. He was of a genial disposition, and was extremely popular not only as a football player, but as a police officer in every place where he had been stationed. He was 36 years of age, and leaves a widow and two children to mourn the loss of one who was well beloved by all his comrades, and by all the people who knew him in the sphere in which he moved.”

A Sergeant Caleb Morris of Aberdare wrote a poem as a tribute to the members of the Glamorgan Constabulary who had served during the war. One verse is dedicated to Dick Thomas:

***“Another hero, strong and tall,
A master with the gloves and ball,
A football player, lithe and bold,
An International of old.
He won his cap for strength
and dash -
I mean Dick Thomas,
Mountain Ash;
A Sergeant Major at the Front
Was in the van, as e’er his wont.
Poor Dick is numbered with
the slain,
And buried on a foreign plain...”***

BROTHERS IN ARMS



"So Long Butty" or "So Long Taff," Mametz Wood, 1916 by Jack Sullivan

The attacks by the Welsh Division on Mametz Wood, as we have seen, took a terrible toll and Dick Thomas was not the only police officer from South Wales to fall during those days. They too should not be forgotten and we give brief details of them. They were, like Dick, from the Glamorgan Constabulary. They served in the same police force and died as soldiers on the same battlefield.

They and Dick have no known grave. They are all commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing of the Somme along with some 72,000 other soldiers from Britain and South Africa.

**POLICE CONSTABLE 122
ROBERT JOHN HARRIS**
GLAMORGAN CONSTABULARY

**SERGEANT 23140
16TH BATTALION
WELSH REGIMENT**



Robert ("Bob") Harris was born on 20th January 1887 at Ynysybwl, the son of Mr and Mrs John Harris of Llechwen

Farm, Ynysybwl, Pontypridd. He was a collier before joining the Glamorgan Constabulary on 31st October 1908 and at the time of the Census of 1911 he was serving at Nantymoel. He subsequently served at Aberkenfig.

After the outbreak of war he joined the Welsh Regiment and served with the Cardiff City Battalion. Bob Harris was killed in action during the Battalion's attack on Mametz Wood on 7th July 1916. A subsequent newspaper report of his death describes him as being "exceedingly popular among the officers and men of the Glamorgan Constabulary."

**POLICE CONSTABLE 205
EDWARD BERESFORD**
GLAMORGAN CONSTABULARY

**SERGEANT 14215
8TH BATTALION, SOUTH
STAFFORDSHIRE REGIMENT**



Edward Beresford was born on 15th May 1888. His place of birth is given in Soldiers Died in the Great War as Old Hill,

Staffordshire but the Census of 1911 states that he was born in Netherton, Worcestershire whilst Glamorgan Police records show it as Dudley, Worcestershire.

He joined the Glamorgan Constabulary on 20th August 1910 and at the time of the Census of 1911 he was lodging at 44 High Street, Barry.

At the start of the First World War he was a constable stationed at Penarth. He then joined the army on 7th September 1914 serving with the 8th Battalion of the South Staffordshire Regiment, and eventually attaining the rank of sergeant. His Battalion landed in France on 14th July 1915.

On 9th July 1916 the Battalion was ordered to attack Quadrangle Support Trench on the Somme in

order to assist the attacks being made by the 38th (Welsh) Division on nearby Mametz Wood. At first the Battalion's attack was successful and part of the trench was captured but German counter attacks later forced the Battalion to fall back. It was during the fighting on 10th July that he was killed in action.

The Western Mail of 31st July 1916 reported:

"Killed: Sergeant Beresford, South Staffordshire Light Infantry, who prior to the war was a police constable stationed at Penarth. According to a letter received at Cardiff the gallant non-com died whilst leading his men forward in a night attack, which was ultimately successful. The letter was from an officer of his battalion, who gives him a splendid name for valuable assistance rendered both in and out of the trenches. Deceased was a single man, and had been in the county constabulary for four years. He volunteered for military service on September 7, 1914."

Another contemporary newspaper report states that he was the son of Edward Beresford of Pentre, Rhondda and that he had three brothers also serving in the army.

**POLICE CONSTABLE 766
WILLIAM HENRY LOUD**

GLAMORGAN CONSTABULARY

**SERGEANT 23311
10TH BATTALION
WELSH REGIMENT**



PC Loud was born in Worle, Somerset in 1894 but subsequently moved with his family to live in South Wales.

At the time of the Census of 1911, he was living at 28 Tallis Street, Cwmparc, Rhondda with his parents, Robert and Ellen and other members of the family. He was one of eight children, with five sisters and two brothers. At that time he was employed in the coal mines as a collier/hewer.

He joined the Glamorgan Constabulary in 1914 and served in Maesteg. After the outbreak of war he enlisted in the army serving with the 10th (1st Rhondda) Battalion of the Welsh Regiment. He went with them to France in 1915 as part of the 38th (Welsh) Division and took part in his Battalion's attack on Mametz Wood on 10th July 1916 when he was killed in action.

**POLICE CONSTABLE 89
WILLIAM EDWARD TRINDER**

GLAMORGAN CONSTABULARY

**LANCE CORPORAL 32681
16TH BATTALION
WELSH REGIMENT**

PC Trinder was from Gloucestershire having been born in Winstone, Cirencester on 21st May 1886. He was the son of James and Joanna Trinder.

He joined the Glamorgan Constabulary on 5th December 1908 and was stationed at Caerau near Maesteg from where he joined the army after the start of the war. He served with the 16th (Cardiff City) Battalion of the Welsh Regiment with whom he went to France in December 1915.

He took part in his Battalion's attack on Mametz Wood on 7th July 1916 and was killed in action.

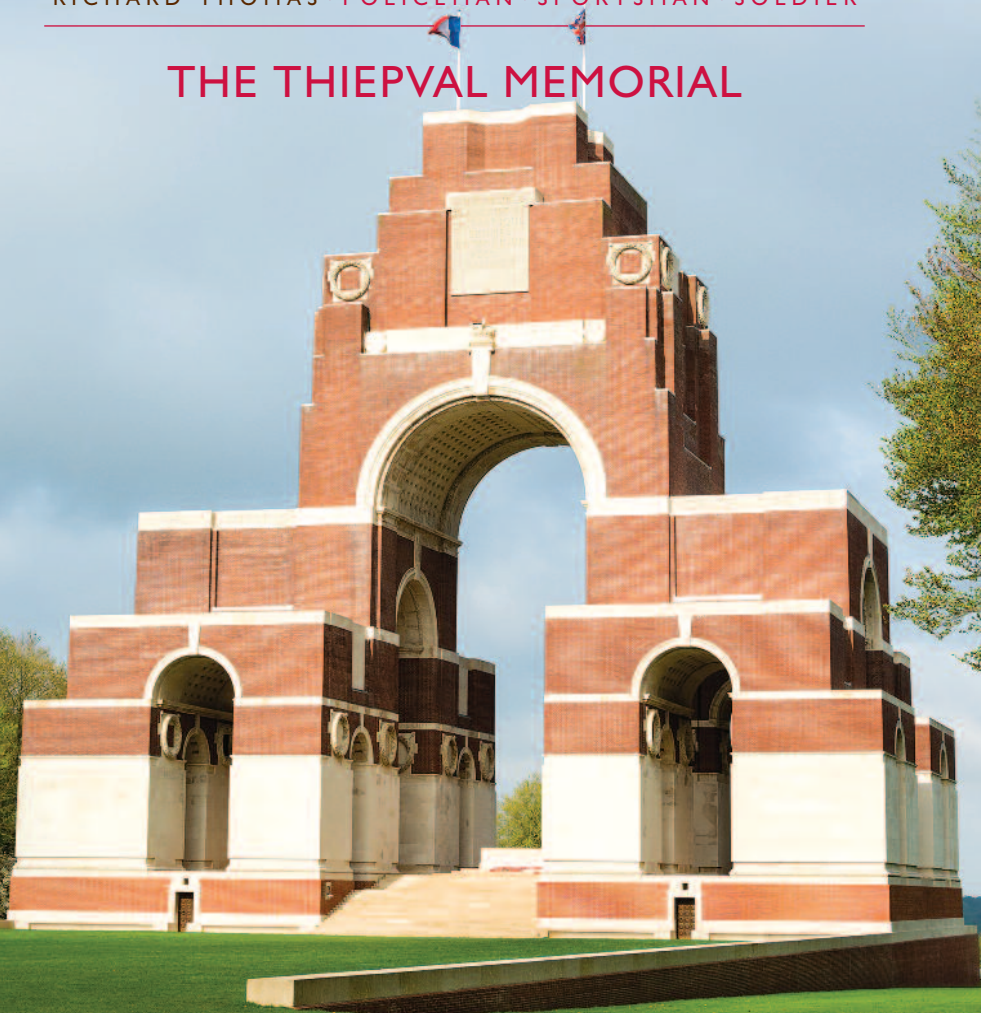
REMEMBRANCE



The Roll of Honour to the fallen from the Glamorgan Constabulary

RICHARD THOMAS • POLICEMAN • SPORTSMAN • SOLDIER

THE THIEPVAL MEMORIAL



South Wales Police wreath laid at the Thiepval Memorial, April 2015