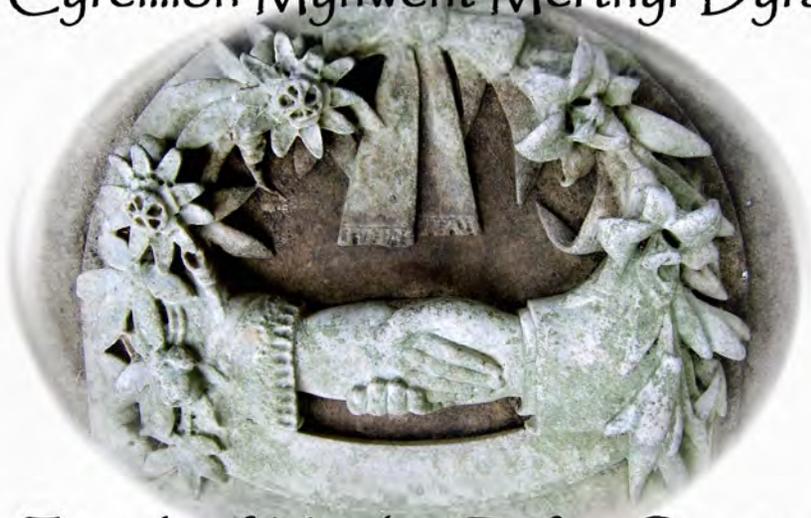


Cyfeillion Mynwent Merthyr Dyfan



Friends of Merthyr Dyfan Cemetery

First World War
Tour of
Merthyr Dyfan
Cemetery, Barry



1914—1918





Imperial War Museum

Q 100870

Imagine November 1918.

It was a wet Monday morning in Barry when news came that the Great War was over. The people of the town gave grateful thanks, crowds filled the streets and torch lit processions went on throughout the week and into the nights.

In July the following year a national "Peace Day" was held and a mass of up to 20,000 people gathered in King's Square where the Chairman of the Council Howell Williams reported 15,000 Barrians had enlisted and 700 had died on sea or land.

In Merthyr Dyfan Cemetery today rest 34 servicemen from the Great War. Their headstones are in the care of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission who since their inception in 1917 have constructed 2,500 war cemeteries and plots.

We hope you enjoy your tour of what we believe is an important historical snapshot of Barry, its men who went to war and didn't return alive.

We have sought to highlight their backgrounds and family and try to place them in their historical context. We also hope to give an insight into their somewhat short military careers.

We hope that both this and future generations will be able to appreciate and thank them for their sacrifice.



The tour. See map middle pages

We enter the Cemetery and turn left at the Royal British Legion cross.

*We bear left to Section **H3** **9 memorials.***

1. Hubert Lewis. Signalman RNVR. Z/2836.

He died on the H.M.S Royal Oak. 25/08/1916. Age 22

He was the son of Richard and Mary Lewis and was born and brought up in Cogan, Penarth. His father was a schoolteacher born in Tipton, Staffordshire who became Principal of Barry Secondary School. Hubert is a prime example of the first generation Barrian, born in the massively expanding Barry area with the advent of the docks and railways and was himself a teacher before joining the Navy. His father received a telegram stating his son had died in hospital of fever on 25th August.

H.M.S. Royal Oak was completed in May 1916 at a cost of around £2.5 million. It was a Royal Sovereign Class Dreadnought Battleship. It saw action in the famous battle of Jutland and was sunk in 1939 by U-boat 47. It remains as a registered war grave. This is not a military stone but recognised and recorded by the CWGC.

2. Albert Payne. Second Lieutenant. RFC

The Royal Flying Corps was the forerunner of the present Royal Air Force. (RAF)

Died 13/01/1918. Age 30

He was the son of George and Susanna Payne. His father had been a dock labourer in the ever expanding Docks in Barry. Albert was born in Cardiff but the family moved to Pyke St. Barry at the turn of the century and later moved to Travis Street. Albert went to school at Holton Road Council School, Barry Dock. He was killed during a "fatal mishap" while in the air with Lt. Wise in a ferry flight from Hendon to Martlesham Heath. Engine failure was

blamed, a common problem in these early days of flight. His body was borne to his grave at Merthyr Dyfan on a gun carriage covered in floral wreaths and he was interred with full military honours. Over 100 men and officers of the Lancashire Fusiliers and RFC were in attendance.

3. Arthur George Evans.
Private King's Shropshire Light Infantry. 19805

Died 18/08/1916. Age 23

Born in Salford, Arthur was brought up in Splott, Cardiff. The son of Francis and Eliza Evans his father worked in the Docks at Barry. The family were much travelled, his father was from Montgomeryshire, his mother from Cornwall and their 6 children including step-children were born in Kent, Lancashire and South Wales. Arthur died during a train journey from military hospital to Cardiff.

4. Edward Akers.
Private 13th Battalion Welsh Regiment. 38067

Died 03/06/1915. Age 26

Born in Barry, brought up in Lombard St. Barry. His mother Elizabeth was a self-employed dress-maker originally from Shepton Mallett who also took in paying boarders. He accidentally drowned at Rhyl on 3rd June, the day after he arrived for training. Prior to signing up he worked for the "Barry Dock News" and for seven years worked on Barry Railway. Edward married Elizabeth, originally from Taff's Well and he died leaving her with two young children.

5. Frank Tippett.
Serjeant 124th Field Company Royal Engineers. 62749

Died 09/10/1918, less than a month from armistice. Age 30

Son of William and Eliza Tippett, originally from Truro, Frank was born in Newquay Cornwall. They lived in Salisbury Rd. Barry where his father was a house decorator. He died of wounds received in action in France, at Chirk Hospital, North Wales on 9th October. He

served in France for three years and was gassed in March 1918. A well known local athlete, Frank was an instructor in a local gymnasium class. Previous to enlisting he worked at Barry Docks. He left a wife Elizabeth and child who lived at Abergwynfi. Frank first served in France from December 1915 and received the 1915 Star.

6. Sydney Miles. Able Seaman
RNVR. Howe Battalion R.N Div. R/3800.

Died 30/05/1918. Age 25

Son of Thomas and Amelia Miles of Adamsdown, Cardiff. Thomas was a Railway engine driver. Sydney was the seventh of at least eight children. He was invalided to the Auxiliary Military Hospital in Northampton in February 1918 with a gunshot wounds to his forearm and left buttock. He died of these wounds and tetanus some months later. He was married to Annie and they lived in Rumney, Cardiff.

7. Gomer Thomas Leyshon.
Leading Telegraphist RNVR Z/257.

Died 13/04/1919. Age 22

He died serving on the H.M Trawler "Thomas Robins". Gomer was the son of William and Mary Leyshon of Newland St. Barry. His family came from the Bridgend area and Gomer was born in Barry, one of the new generation in the expanding Barry. His father was a coal trimmer at the docks; responsible for ensuring that the levels of coal in the ships being loaded were level and even to prevent capsizes. They were a Welsh speaking family.

8. John Jones.
Private 51st Battalion SWB-
South Wales Borderers. TR4/4388

Died 23/03/1918. Age 55

Perhaps one of the most surprising aspects for the authors was the age of John in military service. He died at the age of 55. He was

the son of William and Ann Jones of Merthyr Tydfil and married Elvira, she predeceased him.

9. G H Redman Able Seaman RN H.M.S. “Bulwark” PO/237084

Died 26/11/1914. Age 24

We have been unable to trace any information on the life of Mr Redman. His death however could fill a book. HMS Bulwark, a Battleship, exploded mysteriously at Sheerness. The ship had been taking ammunition on board when a roaring and rumbling sound was heard, a huge sheet of flame and debris shot upwards and the ship was lifted out of the water. After a major enquiry it was believed that it was a massive internal explosion that “rent the ship asunder”. Only 12 men survived out of a complement of 720.

The incident prompted Winston Churchill to make a regretful statement to the House of Commons. The Bulwark was a battleship of 15,000 tons and was moored to a buoy in the River Medway. The explosion was heard over 20 miles away. Able Seaman Redman’s body was recovered nine weeks later.

We cross the road to Section H2

10. David Lewis Jones. Army Service Corps DM2/164382

Died 05/11/1918, within a week of armistice. Age 26

He was the son of David Lewis Jones and Elizabeth Ann Jones. Born in Penclawdd, Swansea his father had been the County Police Sergeant based in the Police station in Cowbridge at the time of the 1901 census. He died of pneumonia whilst home on leave – flu epidemic. Rank of Private throughout his service.

We now pass the Garden of Remembrance to Section O3.

11. Joseph Hugh Burke.

Royal Field Artillery "C" battery 120th Bde. W/881.

Died 28/12/1915. Age 15

Another son of Barry, he was the son of Edward and Mary Burke. His father a rigger came from Ireland and his mother from Penarth. Joseph was born and brought up in George St. Barry and is recorded there at just 10 months old in the 1901 census. This fact backs up his age at death as **15** although the CWGC records his age as 18. He died of pneumonia.

We now go north section N-O

12. John McCarthy.

Gunner in the Royal Garrison Artillery 348351

Died 04/12/1918 around 3 weeks after armistice. Age 40

Aged 40 when he died, John was married to Rose or Rosella in official documents. Before the war John was a labourer born in Cadoxton, Barry and Rosella came from Penarth. The surname McCarthy came from his father born in Ireland and both he and his other son Jeremiah were labourers. They all lived together in Morrel St. Barry and later at Greenwood Street. John is also commemorated on St Helen's Church Memorial.

Directly behind is Section B **3 memorials**

13. William J Deeble. Gunner Royal Horse Artillery 606033.

Died 12/07/1917. Age 35

Surprisingly little can be found about Gunner Deeble but we have found records of his medals. He was awarded both the Victory medal and the British medal. These were the medals most commonly awarded for service in the field. The historical records held on the armed forces by Government through the War Office are extensive and at times very badly written, probably owing to the confusion of the time and may refer to other awards as well. He was born in Newton, Nottage but enlisted in Porthcawl, he died at home.

14. Charles Daniel Webb.
Rifleman in the 10th Battalion Rifle Brigade. S/2380

Died 09/09/1916. Age 20

He was the son of James and Sarah Webb of Abergavenny. The whole family were born in Abergavenny and his father was a Gas stoker. Charles's older brother Joseph was an engine cleaner for the railway. This would have been a very dirty job in the days of steam. Charles died at Albany Road Hospital in Cardiff of wounds received in action. He was a former employee of the Barry Railway Company. He fought in France from July 1915 and was awarded the 1915 Star.

15. John Henry Davies. Sapper. Royal Engineers. WR/277151.

Died 21/02/1919. Three months after the war. Age 26

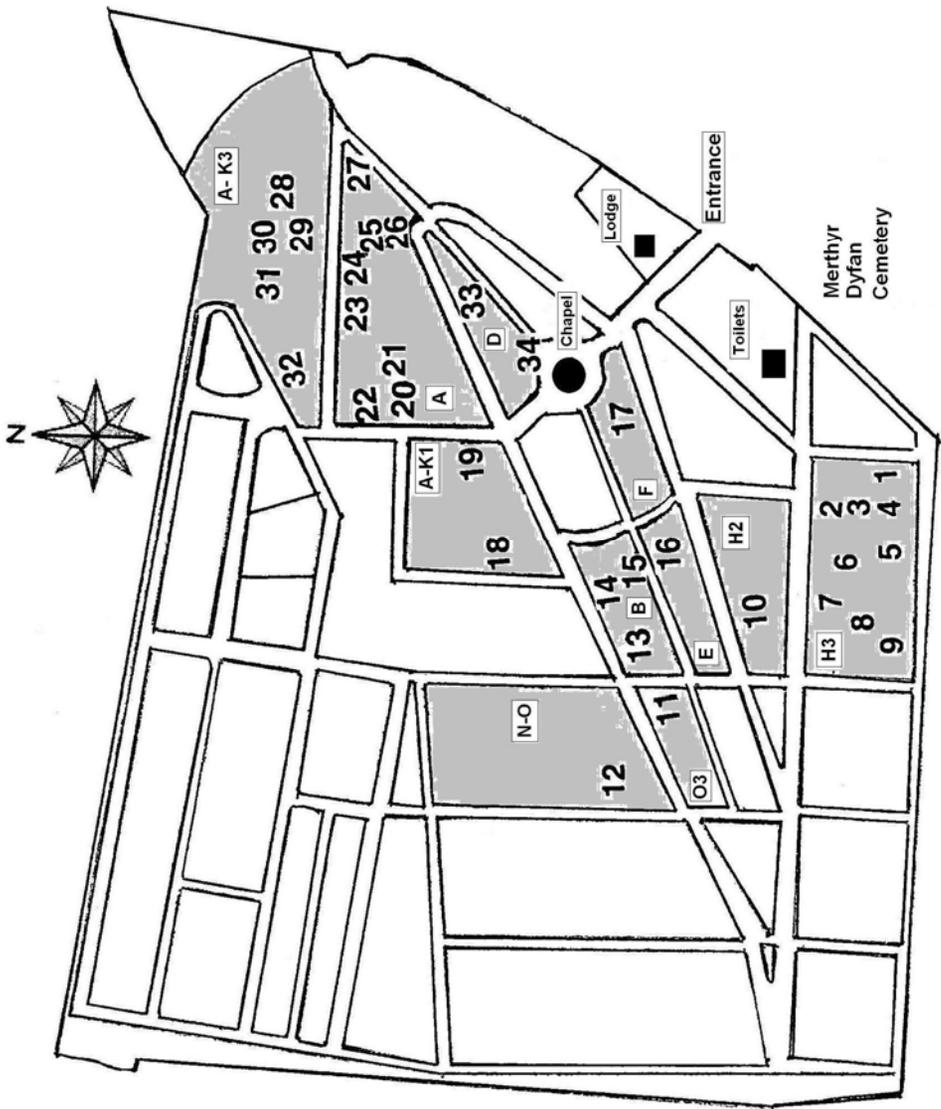
He was the son of Harry Morgan Davies and Annie Davies of Trinity St. Barry. His parents were born in Merthyr Tydfil and moved to Barry at the turn of the century where John was born. His father was a grocery shop assistant in the town. John died at home of Spanish influenza.

The next block is Section E.

16. William William Evans. Stoker Royal Naval Reserve. 6830/S

Died 15/07/1918. Age 22

His unusual name is exactly as it appears in the census records. (So good they named him twice?) He was the son of Thomas and Ann Evans of Brook St. Barry. His father was listed as a Ship's watchman, more testimony to the importance of the docks in the early history of Barry. His parents came from Aberystwyth and the family settled in Barry where their sixth child William was born. All the family were Welsh speaking. He joined the Naval Reserve shortly after the outbreak of the war. An old Hannah Street school-boy he figured prominently in the football team of that school and with the Barry Romillys. He contracted pneumonia and died at his sisters house, Mrs H. Hill in Tydfil Street, a week later.



List of Servicemen

1. **Hubert Lewis.**
2. **Albert Payne.**
3. **Arthur George Evans.**
4. **Edward Akers.**
5. **Frank Tippett.**
6. **Sydney Miles.**
7. **Gomer Thomas Leyshon.**
8. **John Jones.**
9. **G H Redman.**
10. **David Lewis Jones.**
11. **Joseph Hugh Burke.**
12. **John McCarthy.**
13. **William J Deeble.**
14. **Charles Daniel Webb.**
15. **John Henry Davies.**
16. **William William Evans.**
17. **Ewart Oswald Child Wilcox.**
18. **Walter Briggs.**
19. **Charles Westcott.**
20. **John Alexander Morgan.**
21. **Charles Gould.**
22. **Charles W King.**
23. **John Auther Norton.**
24. **Edward James Gillard.**
25. **Leslie B. Lintern.**
26. **William Frederick Torrington.**
27. **Philip Henry Harvey.**
28. **Frederick Henry Blake.**
29. **Henry George Hicks.**
30. **Thomas William Thomas.**
31. **George Whittaker.**
32. **Owen J Bell.**
33. **Charles Finnegan.**
34. **John Charles Francis Hayes.**

We head towards the Chapel to Section F.

**17. Ewart Oswald Child Wilcox.
Pioneer in the 147th Fortress Company
Royal Engineers. 89953.**

Died 20/03/1918. Age 38

Born in Treherbert, Rhondda, he was recorded in the 1901 census as a steam engine maker. His father William was listed as a Coal inspector. They lived in The Parade, Barry which overlooks the beautiful Old Harbour. He is later listed as being the husband of Ella from Vancouver in British Columbia.

Head north past the chapel to section A-K1 2 memorials

**18. Walter Briggs.
Sapper Royal Engineers
1st/3rd Glamorgan Fortress Company 868**

Died 06/05/1915. Age 21

He was the son of Samuel and Mary Briggs of Landore, Swansea. His father was born in Clacton-on-sea in Essex and worked as a seaman. Walter's Fortress Company was based on Barry Island and it was from here that he met his end.

He joined the forces in October 1914 and drowned whilst swimming off Barry Island. The reports state that he went swimming with comrades off Nell's Point and got into difficulties over a mile out. Listed as a good powerful swimmer he became exhausted, uttered "I am almost done" and drowned, his tired friends unable to help. His body was picked up a mile and a half west of the Breaksea lighthouse by patrol boat a month later in a "much decomposed" state. His body was later identified by his father. The subsequent inquest was held at Long's restaurant on Barry Island.

19. Charles Westcott.
Private 3rd battalion Welsh Regiment. 33621

Died 13/03/1918. Age 20

Charles was the son of James and Emma Westcott of Princes St. Barry. His father was from Wellington in Somerset and moved with his young family to Barry where Charles was born. Charles was working as a cleaner when he signed up. He died as a result of pulmonary tuberculosis and heart failure at the age of 20. His disability pension of 27s6d had already been calculated, but he died just before discharge. Charles served in the Balkans campaign and was known to have been at Gallipoli.

The next block over is Block A. 8 memorials

20. John Alexander Morgan. Private 1st(Royal) Dragoons 3722

Died 19/02/1919 Age 28

Husband of Ella Morgan, Castle Street, Barry he is commemorated on the Memorial at All Saints Church, Barry. He virtually served the whole war, as he was in active service from October 1914, so was awarded the 1914 Star.

21. Charles Gould.
Lance Corporal 21st Battalion Welsh Regiment. 31645

Died 29/11/1915. Age 39

Charles was the son of Charles and Elizabeth Gould and was married to Adelaide. They lived in Gilbert St. Barry. The 21st Battalion was originally a reserve battalion formed near the start of war. Charles was originally from Bristol.

22. Charles W King.
Private 3rd Battalion Royal Welsh Fusiliers 15307

Died 09/04/1916. Age 29

He was the son of James and Mary King of Daniel St. Barry. James, his father was a Navvy. This is the well known slang for a navigator, quite literally a man who dug. The Navvies dug docks, built railways and did the real manual work on major constructions. Charles was born in Cogan, Penarth and the growing family moved to Barry a couple of years later in around 1890. Charles was the third of at least 9 children. Pre-war he was employed in the Shipping Department of Barry Railway. He died at Stanley Road Hospital, Liverpool and he is commemorated on the Cadoxton Church Memorial.

23. John Auther Norton. Private Labour Corps 160151

Died 17/11/1916. Age 46

John was the son of Godfrey and Amelia Norton. All three were born in Norfolk. They moved to Barry and set up home in Main St. Cadoxton, where his father was a greengrocer. John started his working life as a dock labourer together with his older brother James.

24. Edward James Gillard. Private Welsh Regiment 4/79609.

Died 07/10/1918. Only a month from the end of the war. Age 18

Edward was the son of Edward and Sarah Ann James.

All the family were born in Bristol. In the 1901 census (when Edward was just 7 months old), his father is recorded as a flowerpot maker. The family settled down in Hirwaun St. in the central Thompson St. area of Barry.

On signing up in late August 1918 he was sent for training and was listed with the 53rd(Y.S)Bn of the Welsh Regiment. A small young man he was listed as under 5ft 2 ins and small in frame. He died in Kinmel Park Military Hospital after a 9 day stay with acute bronchitis with his father present at the end. The reports state that he had died from "the strain and exposure of training".

25. Leslie B. Lintern. Private Machine Gun Corps. 185747

Died 03/12/1918 some 3 weeks after the war. Age 17

Leslie was the son of Ernest and Alice Lintern of Barry. The family were recorded as coming from Plymouth originally where his father was listed as “a refreshment house keeper” This would have served the Plymouth docks area. He died of pneumonia.

**26. William Frederick Torrington.
Private 1st Battalion Canadian Machine Gun Corps. A/861**

Died 06/05/1918. Age 25

William had a very interesting background. Born in Cardiff he lived at one time in George Street, Barry. He emigrated to Canada shortly before the outbreak of war, he had previously seen military service in the Canadian 27th Regiment. Then in February 1915 he enlisted for the 1st Battalion of the Canadian machine gun corps. He gave his next of kin as his brother Harold quoting his address only as Barry Docks. He died in Seaford Hospital, East Sussex.

**27. Philip Henry Harvey.
Stoker 1st Class Royal Navy H.M.S “Vivid” K/15306**

Died 08/02/1919 Age 23

Philip was the son of Matthew and Elizabeth Harvey who had moved to Wales from England. Philip was probably born in Barry. His father was a labourer in the Docks. The family lived in both Gwenllian Street and Evans St. Barry. Philip’s older brother Alfred is commemorated on the Plymouth Naval Memorial as he died in 1916 whilst serving on the H.M.S “Indefatigable”, he was also a stoker.

The next block over is Block A -K3 5 memorials

28. Frederick Henry Blakes.

Private, 9th Battalion Devonshire Regiment. 12775

Died 27/10/1914 Age 22

Frederick was the son of Walter and Adeline Blakes of Chilcote Street, Barry. His father was a stonemason and the young family moved from Nailsea, Bristol around 1894. They later moved to Court Road Cadoxton. Frederick died during training at Bisley in 1914. The bearers at his funeral were all recruits from Barry and Dinas Powys under the charge of Corporal H. Russell from Cadoxton. Another non standard stone probably due to his father's trade.

29. Henry George Hicks.

Lance Corporal 9th Battalion Welsh Regiment 37677

Died 24/10/1917 Age 28

Henry was the son of Frederick and Melinda Hicks of Treharne Rd. in Barry. His father was listed as a "worker" and his mother as a self employed laundress working from home.

Henry started work as a grocer in the growing town but was recorded on entry into the army as a "labourer". He first served in France in May 1915 but was wounded in action with a shell wound to his right foot in July 1916.

His daughter Irene tragically died of measles and bronchopneumonia in 1917 aged only 6 months old. Henry himself died of sickness and heart failure at Kinmel Camp, North Wales, where he had become an instructor.

The Army pensions had lost touch with his widow but eventually traced her to Wenvoe in order to pay her Army pension of 13s 9d a week. Henry is also commemorated on the Cadoxton Church memorial.

30. Thomas William Thomas.
Serjeant 3rd Battalion, Welsh Regiment 6504

Died 22/4/1916 Age 33

Born and enlisted in Cardiff he was the husband of Martha Thomas of Pethybridge Road, Ely, Cardiff. His military career started in France in November 1914 and received the 1914 Star.

31. George Whittaker.
Private 16th Battalion
South Lancashire Regiment 61361

Died 09/11/1918 Age 20

Son of John and Ellen Whittaker of Daniel Street, Barry and later Charlotte Place, Cadoxton. His mother and father came from Shepton Mallett and his father was a Quarryman. George died in Liverpool of pneumonia.

32. Owen J Bell.
Bombardier Royal Garrison Artillery 348129

Died 11/6/1919 Age 24

The son of Charles and Agnes who lived in Barry Dock, his father was a general labourer. The RGA were responsible for the heavy large calibre guns and howitzers that were positioned some way behind the front line. At this time horses were being used to pull the artillery into place.

Turn towards the chapel to find Block D 2 memorials.

33. Charles Finnegan.

Boatswain. Mercantile Marine Reserve Special Service Vessel "Peggy"

Died 17/10/1918 Age 42

The "Peggy" was a herring drifter boat built in 1907 that sailed from ports along the East coast of Scotland. During the war it was used as an Admirals barge by the Admiralty. It also was used to lay a cable from Peterhead to Russia for the British and Russian governments.

34. John Charles Francis Hayes.

Serjeant Major, 12 Battalion Welsh Regiment 19371

Died 24/4/1915 Age 49

The 12TH Battalion was formed in Cardiff on 23rd October 1914. John was the husband of Alice Maud Hayes who lived in Station Road, Llandaff North, Cardiff.



On 31st July 1918, the first contingent of American troops to land in Britain arrived in Barry, the picture above is taken of them following their march to Kings Square for an official reception.



Special thanks from the
Friends of Merthyr Dyfan Cemetery
to the staff at
Barry Town Council.



HE whom this scroll commemorates was numbered among those who, at the call of King and Country, left all that was dear to them, endured hardness, faced danger, and finally passed out of the sight of men by the path of duty and self-sacrifice, giving up their own lives that others might live in freedom. Let those who come after see to it that his name be not forgotten.

Printed and published on behalf of the Friends of Merthyr Dyfan Cemetery, by Nic and Shirley Hodges, 19 Romilly Road, Barry.