

We are pleased to include this document from Mr Vivian Parry regarding the local War Memorial and the names thereon, and to ask on his behalf if anyone has any further information to remember.

## **UPPER CHAPEL WAR MEMORIAL The Great War 1914 - 1918**

The War Memorial Hospital, Brecon is the official World War I Memorial for the former County of Breconshire. Inside the main foyer is a plaque commemorating those killed in the Great War - listed alphabetically by Parish. The local people, however, of the Lower and Upper Wards of Duffryn Honddu in the parish of Merthyr Cynog chose to erect their own memorial to those who served or were killed. Located in Upper Chapel Churchyard, it lists those born in, or with close connection to, those Wards. Merthyr Cynog Parish has four wards - Duffryn Honddu Lower and Upper, Yscirfawr and Yscirfechan and these men who enlisted from Yscirfawr and Yscirfechan are not included: Rhys Davies, Yscirfechan; T. Williams, Gwarfelin; Privates Thomas and Jack Jones of Rhydyberry and their brother Morgan R. Jones who was killed. There may be others who should be included.

### **Details of the War Memorial at Upper Chapel**

#### **To the Glory of God and IN HONOURED MEMORY OF THE MEN OF DUFFRYN HONDDU WHO FELL IN THE GREAT WAR OF 1914- 1918**

Dvr. E. Clayton

Pte. D. Jones

Pte. E.J. Thomas

Pte. D. Phillips

Pte. E. Parry

Pte. C.M. Parry

#### **ALSO OF THE MEN WHO SERVED IN THE GREAT WAR**

Serg. A. Parry	Gunr. F.T. Philips
Cpl. A. Evans	Gunr. A. Mold
Cpl. H.C. Phillips	Rfn. H.C. Parry
Bdn. W.J: Probert	Rfn. A.S. Parry
Dvr. D.R. Williams	Pte. R. Thomas
Pte W.T. Williams	Pte. D. Davies
Pte. T. Jones	Pte. D. Evans
Pte.H. Jones	Pte. W. Pugh
Pte. M.R. Jones	Pte. D.P. Parry
Pte. E.H. Phillips	Pte. W.P. Parry

**Omissions:** Thomas Davies, Danyrallt (son of Mr & Mrs. Davies, Baileybrith) and Lewis Stephens, (son of Mr. & Mrs. Edward Stephens of Login) served with the Brecknocks in India but objected to their names being added.

The following extract has been taken from the *Brecon County Times* - 30th. September, 1915:

A peculiar coincidence is that the only two men [at that date] from the Merthyr Cynog and Upper Chapel district who have been killed in the war were the sons of two sisters, the one being Pte. D. Jones Upper Chapel - Official intimation has been received by Mr. & Mrs. Hugh Jones, Tycanol, Upper Chapel, near Brecon, of the death of their son, Private David Jones, of the South Wales Borderers, who was killed in action at the Dardanelles on August 22nd. 1915 and the other being Private Morgan Jones, 5th Welsh Regiment, son of Mr. & Mrs. Eben Jones, Rhydyberry, Merthyr Cynog, who was also killed at the Dardanelles. The Rhydyberry family have two other sons in the army, Private Thomas Jones and Private Jack Jones, of the Brecknock

## **Details of Persons killed in the 1914 - 1918 War - (as the names appear on the Memorial)**

- **Dvr. E. Clayton** - mistakenly listed as "killed" he returned to the Upper Chapel area some years after the War ended and worked at Danyrallt.

*Military records:- Clayton E. Dvr. 720117 66th. Div. Ammunition Co. R.F.A. Died 18.10.1917; Commemorated Tyne Cot. Memorial Belgium Panel 4 - 5 & 6 Born Merthyr Cynog.*

He was not born in Merthyr Cynog Parish but was living in the Upper Chapel area working for the local blacksmith. Local hearsay suggests he also served in the Boer War. Military Authorities are adamant he was killed, not accepting he survived – there are now only about 8 local people who can remember him living at Danyrallt with Mr. & Mrs. Dan Scrivens

- **Pte. D. Jones\*** - from *Brecon County Times* - 30th. September, 1915

**Upper Chapel Hero - Killed at the Dardanelles** Official intimation has been received by Mr. & Mrs. Hugh Jones, Tycanol, Upper Chapel, near Brecon, of the death of their son, Private David Jones, of the South Wales Borderers, who was killed in action at the Dardanelles on August 22nd. Deceased joined the new army in September 1914, and left for the front on June 28th last. His parting words to his mother were "Don't mind if I do go and am shot. I don't mind a bit. I don't want to be made a prisoner or to be wounded very badly." So that in one sense it is true to say he had the desire of his heart; he escaped the fate he dreaded, and coolly met the death he did not fear. The sorrow of the family is relieved by the thought that he died in so noble a cause and that he "did his bit" for his King and country. For three years the deceased had worked as a haulier in Abercrave, and much sympathy is felt there with his family in their loss.

*Military records:- Jones, David Pte. 12970 4th. Bat. S.W.B. Killed in Action - 22.8.1915 Gallipoli Born - Upper Chapel, Merthyr Cynog - Age 26.*

- **Pte E.J. Thomas** - from *Brecon & Radnor Express* - 27th. September, 1917

A memorial service for the late Pte. Edward Thomas S.W.B. was held at Upper Chapel last Sunday. Many friends and relatives came together to show their sympathy with his parents, Mr. & Mrs. Thomas of Tydu. The young soldier was killed on August 3rd and his chaplain wrote stating that on account of the ground being covered with shell fire his body was not recovered until the 29<sup>th</sup> when it was buried. The Vicar in his address expressed the hope that at the end of the war the parishioners would assist him in setting up a tablet to commemorate the names of the men of Merthyr Cynog who had given up their lives for their country.

*Military records: Thomas, Edward Pte. 29547 5th, BaCS.W.B. Killed in Action F. F. 8.3. Born - Merthyr Cynog Son of Mr. Thomas Tydu, UpperChapel.*

- **Phillips D Pte.** 19903 2nd. Bat. S.W.B. D. of W. F& F 7.4.1916 - Born Brecon  
From the South Wales Borders Museum, The Barracks, Brecon: *Phillips, Private David 19903 2nd. Battalion, South Wales Borders - Killed 7th. April, 1916 Age 23. Buried at Gezainrourt Communal Cemetery Ext. Row 1 A 7 Son of Sarah Oliver (formerly Phillips) of Gammalt, Rhayader, Rads. and the late Thomas Phillips - Born in Brecon area - Enlisted at Newport (Although Rhayader is mentioned he was born at Tynwern, Upper Chapel. His father Thomas Phillips died suddenly while ploughing at Tynwern Farm and his mother Sarah was born at Disgwylfa, Upper Chapel. From a gravestone in Ebenezer Chapel burial ground: David Phillips son of Thomas & Sarah Phillips, Tynwern, near Upper Chapel Died April 7 1916 Aged 23 years Buried in Gezaincourt Communal Cemetery - Row No. B /3 France*

- **Pte. E. Parry** - from official scroll - Parry, Pte. Evan 27391. 2nd. Btn. South Wales Borderers. 18th. May, 1917. Age 30.

Son of Evan and Mary Parry, of Ffynonoer, Merthyr Cynog, Brecon.

WHO GAVE HIS LIFE IN THE GREAT WAR THAT WE MIGHT LIVE AND WHOSE NAME IS  
CARVED IN STONE AT THE BRITISH MEMORIAL AND CEMETERY, ARRAS-FRANCE

*Military records: Parry, Evan Pte. 27391 2nd. Bat. S.W.B. Died 18.5.1917 Age 30.* He is commemorated by name on The Arras Memorial (France) on Bay 6. The Arras Memorial forms part of the Fauborg -D - Amiens Cemetery in the Western part of the town of Arras in the Boulevard Due General-a Gaulle.

- **Pte. C.M. Parry** - from official scroll: Parry, Pte. Charles Morgan, 27398. 2nd. Bn. South Wales Borderers 11th. April, 1918. Age 24.

Son of Evan and Mary Parry, of Ffynonoer, Merthyr Cynog, Brecon.

WHO GAVE HIS LIFE IN THE GREAT WAR THAT WE MIGHT LIVE  
AND WHOSE NAME IS CARVED IN STONE AT  
PLOEGSTEERT -WAR MEMORIAL -BELGIUM

Parry Charles Morgan Pte 27398 2nd. Bat. S.W.B. Died 11.4.1918 Age 24. He is commemorated by name on Panel 5. The Ploegstreet Memorial (Belgium). The village of Ploegstreet is 16 km south of Ypres near the France -Belgium Border and near Armentieres. The Ploegstreet Memorial stands in Berks Cemetery Ex 2 km north of the village on the road to Ypres. "Evan and Charles Morgan Parry" and Rfn A.S and Pte. W.P. Parry included on the War Memorial at Upper Chapel were brothers.

**Notes\*** : Hugh Jones of Tycanol Upper Chapel was the father of Pte D. Jones, and an Uncle for Pte. D. Phillips (Sarah Phillips being Hugh's sister) who were both killed. Hugh Jones was also an uncle to Ptes. M.R. Jones, Tom and Jack Jones of Rhydberry (whose mother was a sister-in-law to Hugh Jones) who all served in the War. He had another son who enlisted - Morgan Jones (later a butcher in Castle Street Brecon)

### **Others who served...**

Although a resident of Merthyr Cynog Parish, The following name does not appear on the war memorial because he was not a resident of the Upper and Lower Duffryn Wards.. However, his name is included on the plaque in Brecon War Memorial Hospital.

*Military Records:- Jones, M.R. 3341 Died at sea 11.8.1915. Born Merthyr Cynog Welsh Regt.*  
(He was a cousin of Pte. D. Jones mentioned above.)

### **Siting the War Memorial**

There was some disagreement over the positioning of the War Memorial. The *chapel* people wanted it erected in the village square, whereas others wanted it in the churchyard. The Church authority consented for a part of the churchyard to be walled off but the objectors would not agree and the offer was withdrawn. A decision was finally made and the Memorial was erected in the Upper Chapel Churchyard in the mid 1920's paid for by local collection.

And finally some more detail is provided about the individual soldiers who served in WW1 as listed on the War Memorial located in Upper Chapel churchyard.

Many details are not authenticated and should act merely as a pointer to the identity of the person. Any additional information will be very welcome. It is sad to reflect that although only a hundred years have passed – already there are too many 'unknowns' about these men who served and “*who gave their lives in the Great War so that we might live*”.

<b><u>Serg. A. Parry</u></b>	Unknown
<b><u>Cpl. A. Evans</u></b>	Unknown - suggested as Alfred Evans, Tymynydd. Outside the Parish, may be included if working in the Honddu Valley before he enlisted.
<b><u>Cpl. H.C. Phillips</u></b>	Probably Harry Phillips, Nantygroes. There was a Cpl. H. Phillips at a Lower Chapel Wedding on Aug. 8 1918, though one of the sons of Nantygroes was a chaplain and commissioned officer in the army.
<b><u>Bdn. W.J. Probert</u></b>	Willie Probert, son of Mr Mrs Probert Tymawr joined Canadian Army
<b><u>Dvr..D.R. Williams</u></b>	David Rees Williams, Upper Cwmttydu
<b><u>Pte W.T. Williams</u></b>	Unknown. Thought to be one of the Williams Boys of Cwmfforch who is reputed to have suffered seriously from gas poisoning.
<b><u>Pte. T. Jones</u></b>	'Tommy' Jones worked at Penbont - photograph may be of Jones brothers from Rhydberry -included here as working in Upper Chapel.
<b><u>Pte. H. Jones</u></b>	Howell Jones of Cwmlanerch
<b><u>Pte. Jones</u></b>	? Morgan Jones, son of Hugh, brother Pte David in list of Persons killed. 'Morgan Jones The Butcher' Castle Street, before WW
<b><u>Pte. E.H. Phillips</u></b>	'Ted' Phillips, Comele Fach - with the Brecknocks in India
<b><u>Gunr. F.T. Phillips</u></b>	'Fred' Phillips, Comele Fach - with the Brecknocks in India
<b><u>Gunr. A. Mold</u></b>	Employed by Tom Phillips, local Gamekeeper- Suffered from Shell shock
<b><u>Rfn. H. C. Parry</u></b>	'Hughie Cynog' Parry, (Uncle for Glyn Parry) Maybe lived Tyisha Honddu River below Coedmawr related to the Ffynnonoer Parry Family
<b><u>Rfn. A.S. Parry</u></b>	'Abraham Samuel' One of four from Ffynnonoer who served, brother to Pte E. Parry, Pte. C.M. Parry listed among The Fallen and Pte. W.P. Parry
<b><u>Pte. R. Thomas</u></b>	Believed to be Roger Thomas, Coedrnawr
<b><u>Pte. D. Davies</u></b>	Unknown
<b><u>Pte. D. Evans</u></b>	Unknown – Maybe David (Dai) Evans of Tymynydd Outside the Parish, may be included if working in the Honddu Valley before he enlisted
<b><u>Pte. W. Pugh</u></b>	William Pugh, son of Mr. & Mrs. Richard Pugh of Llwynrhydill
<b><u>Pte. D.P. Parry</u></b>	60788 S.W.B. Son of Mr & Mrs Matthew Parry Bryngago. Father of Vivian Parry, Mrs. Barbara Morgan and the late Ieuan, Islwyn & Idwal).
<b><u>Pte. W.P. Parry</u></b>	'William Penry' Ffynonoer - employed as postman after and lived at Llwynbrain. One of 'four from Ffynonoer' who served in the War.

**Tom Davies** (*Danyrallt*) and **Lewis Stephens** (*Login*) both served with the Brecknocks in India but objected to having their names added to the War Memorial. One was presented with a barometer and the other with a clock.