Amgueddfa Wehyddu'r Drenewydd Textile Museum

The Warehouse Eleven:

The Team that went to War



On Easter Monday 1914, eleven men strolled out on to the Recreation Ground to play a football match which marked the culmination of their season. It was one of the last occasions in which they would play together. Within four months the world was engulfed in war and these eleven men would find themselves in a far more deadly competition.

This is their story.

Nineteenth century Newtown, was emerging as an industrial centre, thanks to the establishment of the flannel industry in the town.

Textile production was originally centred in the carding and fulling mills on the river and in the numerous small handloom workshops in the town or in the Penygloddfa area. By mid century larger factories powered by steam were taking over. Within the new factories all the processes of cloth manufacture were brought together under one roof. The largest of these, the Cambrian Woollen Mills, employed as many as 300 workers.

An industrial working class was developing. The identity of this class was defined by their work place. The factories were places where people worked, socialised, often formed ties and, increasingly, played sport together.

A working class sporting culture was being mirrored in many industrial areas of Britain. It grew as the result of a new phenomenon: workers' free-time. Until mid century the only regular non-working time for industrial workers was Sunday.

But Sunday, as the Christian Sabbath day was strictly observed: it was literally a day of rest. The 1850 Factory Act changed everything. Although it increased the working week from 58 to 60 hours, it established the right of industrial workers to have a half day holiday on Saturday afternoon. For the first time industrial workers had free time on their hands. And it was from this act that the growth of popular sport, particularly football, can be traced.



The Checkers Inn Broad St, one of seventeen pubs in Newtown. It was only too happy to serve beer on a Saturday afternoon to bored young men.

Christian denominations were keen to promote clean living and abstinence from the demon drink. Employers wanted a sober and reliable workforce. Sporting pursuits were considered a good thing. The churches and chapels worked with the employers of the factories both hoping to encourage healthy pursuits, a benefit to church and employers alike.

Football as " A Means of Grace."

PRESENTATION TO PANT.

The committee of the Village Cup having awarded the cup to the Pant Blue Sters, it was presented to the captain of the winning team (Harvey) last Saturday at the Pant. The Rev J Allen Jones, vicar of Llanyblodwel, who made the presentation, said that some people objected to football as a demoralising game. A fortnight ago a Welsh County Councillor attacked a Methodist minis er who encouraged football, and he thanked God that he had never been on a football field Presumably therefore the Councillor knew but little of football, and could not be taken as an authority of the evil or otherwise of the game. He (the speaker) believed in football as a manly pastime, likely to develop the best parts of a man's nature. He would go so far as to say that football, rightly played, could even be a means of grace. It could develop the virtue of self-sacrifice and self-denial. The man who played for his own hands, or ruther feet-(laughter)-seeking his own individual glory, was of no use to a team. But the man who excercised self-denial, passing the ball that another might score, was the true footballer. Football also helped a man to take his buffetings in good part without losing his temper. It was a great unifying force. Radical and Tory, Church and chapel were of one accord on the football field.

Newtown, an early centre of Welsh football

The first organised Welsh football clubs emerged in the industrial north-east of the country. Wrexham FC can claim to be the oldest Welsh club, being formed in 1864. Newtown quickly followed as an important centre for the organised game. Newtown FC was formed in 1875. By the beginning of the twentieth century the town could boast a plethora of teams, some surviving longer than others. Most of these clubs were based around 'works' teams, like the RWW or North End (both consisting of Pryce Jones Company employees), or teams with associated with occupational groups.

Some early Newtown Football Teams

Newtown FC **Newtown Blue Stars** Newtown Half Holiday Newtown Rangers Newtown North End

Newtown White Stars Newtown Green Stars Royal Welsh Warehouse

Newtown Excelsion The Cambrian Royal Welsh Fusiliers





Newtown Half Holiday Club.

A team of shop assistants who played their matches on 'early closing' afternoons.

Newtown White Stars, the first Newtown team to win the Welsh Cup in 1879.

The team consisted of a blacksmith, a couple of bricklayers and several flannel workers. Unable to afford a club kit, they sewed a distinctive white star on their shirts to distinguish themselves from their opponents. Their 'club house' was the Greyhound Inn (site of Iceland store) and they played most of their matches 'away' because they did not have an established 'home' ground.

The Royal Welsh Warehouse Recreation Society

In 1887, Queen Victoria conferred a knighthood on Pryce Jones, who added an extra 'Pryce' to his name and became Sir Pryce Pryce-Jones. To celebrate the occasion, the staff of the RWW held a sports day. This event soon became one of the highlights of the year with a recreation society formed to organise it. Originally confined to Warehouse employees, it was broadened in 1889 to the general public. By the beginning of the 20th century, this summer festival was attracting huge crowds from near and far with estimates of up to 20,000 people attending. Sporting competitions were held on the company's own 'Recreation Ground' on Pool Road whilst brass band and quick-step contests were held in Broad Street.

120 yards fiat: 1st, D. W. Waiters, Cardiff (Hiyds);
2nd, A. Pierce, Oswestry (byds); 3rd, S. Hurdsfield,
Salford Harriers (dyds).
440 yards: 1st, S. Hurdsfield (15pds); 2nd, H. Lloyd,
Elliesmere (Syds); 3rd, J. L. Phillips, Shrewsbury
(28yds).
One mile fiat: 1st, D. Evans, Rhayader (100yds); 2nd,
T. J. Evans, Knighton (150yds); 3rd, C. W. Powis,
Birchfield H. (180yds).
One mile bicycle: 1st, R. J. Nibiett, Kington (110yds);
2nd, E. Banks, Congleton (120yds); 3rd, T. S. Clutton,
Wrexhasu (175yds).
Two miles bicycle: 1st, E. Banks, Congleton (200yds);
2nd, R. J. Nibiett (175yds); 3rd, T. S. Clutton (780yds).
Three miles bicycle scratch: 1st, J. Brooks, Stalybridge; 2nd, A. E. Maycock, Manchester; 3rd, E. Banks,
Congleton.
Tug-of-war: Winners, Greys, Abertiflery
Band contests for Weish bands (test piece Weish airs):
1st, £15, Ferndale; 2nd, £10, Rhos; 3rd, £5, Aberdare,
Open contest (test piece "Gems from Sullivan's Operas"
No. 3): 1st, £30, Wyke; 2nd, £16, Ferndale; 3rd, £8,
Lindley; 4th, £4 Wingates,
Quickstep competition: 1st, Ferndale; 2nd, Lindley,
Mr. Ord Hume adjudicated the open contests and Mr.
J. W. Bestwick the Weish contest.

The Boyal Welsh Warehouse Recreation Society's

ports at Newtown on Saturday were most successful.

The results were as follow:--

The results of the competitions in 1902 indicate how the sports attracted competitors from across Wales and England ('The Evening Express', 23 June 1902)

By 1914, the event had become more than a sports day. Generous prizes attracted entrants and spectators from North and South Wales, as well as the Midlands and Lancashire. The Cambrian Railways organised special excursion trains to bring the crowds into Newtown.

R.W.W. ANNUAL SPORT The annual sports and fête of the Royal W arehouse Recreation Society were held on Society's Grounds in Pool road on Saturday after noon fast. The excellence of this yearly fixture justifies its fame which, as wil be seen from ist of competitors, extends considerably bey the immediate district in which it is held. committee this season would seem to have be learned in atmospheric signs and tokens, that the shoice fell upon weather that would gratify most exacting critic. Sandwithed between t wet ones, the sports day, in spits of a few clouds intervals, continued fine and genial to the end. anyone entering the town towards mid-day builday look on the faces of the passers by quite coungls to show that a gala of some kind w going forward, and any doubt in the matter wo quickly set at rest by the obvious tread of population in the direction of Pool road. A good comber had assembled there by the time the aftermon wore on. It would, indeed, he hard find a more pleasuntly situated spot for recreati than that of the Society resposable for the daexhibition of skill and festivity. Encompassed wooded heights, the ground itself is more or I of a plain, or at any rate, as nonly that as can xpected in such an unsulating unighbourho The surroundings were fresh and bright, and seemed both onlookers and competitors, judgie from the efforts of the last and the hearty appla which greeted them from time to time. No wonder then, that under such circumstances, the pr gramme was an entire success. With the adve of the wheel bicycle-racing evidently came to stafor it gains rather than loses in interest year year. The excle contests, therefore, were price favourices, appealing possibly mure to the sport heart than the upparently tamer races on the fi He that as it may the interest in every heat was keeply manifested, and when the finals were run off arthusiasm spilled over. The tags of we oo, were closely watched and the competing team were leatily cheered on by their respective support ers. The winners from Liverpool plainly kno how to pull, in addition to having formidable weigh on their side. But to the final fur the two mil yele handicap must be given the palm for a wall wight fight, kindling prolonged excitement and the essful men were heartily cheered for their ski and enturance. After this, the chief event, the remaining itsms on the programme were perha somewhat discounted, notwithstanding their intr sic worth. The obstacle race was the occasion good deal of ammentent, and the winner shows lifficulties, but also in profiting by those of the other contestants. After the sports proper were at a coll, and the victors and their friends, laden with poil, had trudged homeward, attention was divide etween tumblers and funny menou the one hand and dancing on the other. Rut he music of the ofunteers and the charms of the "many " gradual revailed with the majority, and lade and lain ported merrily on the smooth shares green of th

How the press reported the event in 1900. ('The Montgomeryshire Ex County Times', 30th June 1900)



The Aber Valley Band (Windsor Colliery Working Men's Silver Band, Caerffili) competed at the Sports in 1912-1914. They are seen here in Shortbridge Street leading the procession from the Recreation Ground into town at the end of the Sports Day.

'JM', the man behind the Sports

The Pryce-Jones family did much to encourage and support the creation of the Sport and Recreation Society(RWWSRS), but it was left to one of the firm's managers to undertake the organisation.

John Maurice Jones, a native of Llanbrynmair, started his working life as an apprentice draper with Goodwin's of Newtown and joined the Pryce Jones Company in 1879. He quickly worked his way up to management level. As early as 1880 he had helped establish both the football and cricket clubs and for some thirty years he acted as Hon. Secretary of the RWWSRS. It was he who established and then developed the sports, transforming them from an annual athletics event into a sporting and cultural festival.





'JM' (left) with family enjoying a dip in the sea on one of the annual Pryce Jones & Co summer excursions

The Royal Welsh Warehouse Football Team

1878: A "Royal Welsh Wanderers" team defeated Montgomery 3-1: probably an early reference to the Warehouse team.

1891: Re-branded as "The Royal Welsh Warehouse Football Club' - nicknames include 'The Warehousemen' and 'The Royalists'.

1896: RWW became a founder member of the Newtown & District League.

1904: Founder member of the Montgomeryshire & District League, which included teams from the mid-Wales coast as well as Montgomeryshire.

1905: Welsh FA sanctioned a new competition, The Montgomeryshire Challenge Cup.

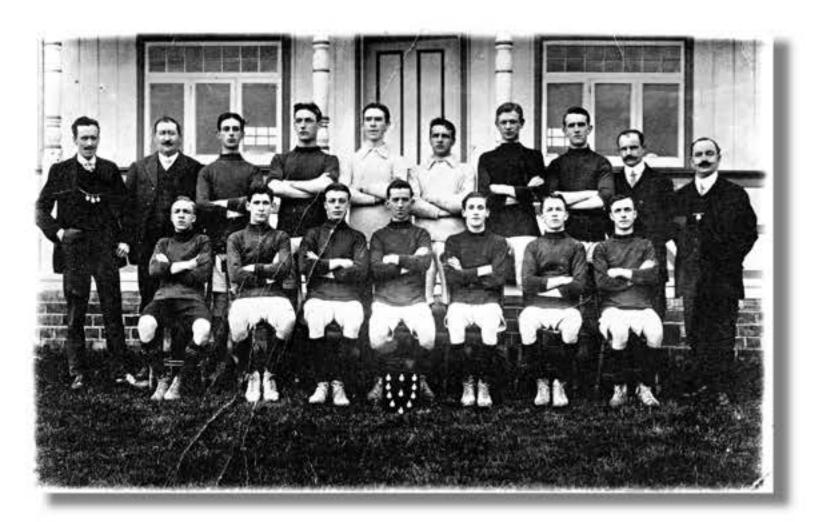
1907: RWW become the first winners of the Montgomeryshire Challenge Cup, beating Llanidloes 3-2 in the final.

1908: RWW win the Montgomeryshire Challenge Cup for the second time in an all-Newtown, all-Pryce Jones final, defeating Newtown North End 2-1.

1911: RWW finish third in the Montgomeryshire & District League - their best ever position, and their final season in the League. At the beginning of the new season they were unable to field a team.

1912: RWW entered a team in the ('junior') Welshpool & District League, winning the 'Newtown Medals Competition' at the end of the season.

1914: RWW defeat Caersws ("the City men") 2-1 to win the Montgomeryshire Challenge Cup for the third time. The game was notable for the fact that the two finalists were members of a 'junior' league having defeated the senior teams of Newtown FC, Llanfyllin and Llanidloes en route



The RWW team at the end of 1912/13 season after winning the Newtown Medals Competition. In today's parlance, they might be described as 'a settled side'. Nine of the eleven players who lifted the Montgomeryshire Challenge Cup the following season were already members of the squad.

Cup between the two jungior teams Caersws and R.W.W. was a very good and exciting one, and here again excitement was kept up till the last minute. The first half was much in favour of Caerswe, and if they had been a little cooler in front of coal they should have led by a greater margin than 1—0 at half-time. Every credit must be awarded to the defence of R.W.W. dur. ing this trying time; it was freally good. Very few really dangerous raids were made b driven back by the excellent defenders of Car. sws. The game looked so one sided in the firs half that spectators felt assured that the "city" men would for the first time in the history of the club be the proud holders of the cup, but the second half told a different tale. The defence of Caersws was still good and effective, but they had more to do, and occasionally the plants with the W.W. forwards got through. elever flittle R.W.W. forwards got through, thought they were unable to score. Boulton got through this fine defence about a quarter of an hour from time. Then came some fun. Cacr sws felt that their case was a serious one, and put a lot more life into their play. Once they all but scored, owing to a poor save at the first attempt by the goalkeeper. Just when everyone thought that the game would end in a draw and the officials had actually discussed the question of a replay, Boulton sot through again and won the match about five minutes from time Even now Cacrews were not done with. With great pluck they attacked strongly and came near scoring, but the defence held out in the best way it could till the whistle blew. At the conclusion of the game, Captain At

should not miss this opportunity.

The final for the Moentgomeryshire Challenge

At the conclusion of the game, Captain Arbuthnot-Brisco presented the cup to the winners. He said that both teams had played a good and clean game. They were junior teams, but he was afraid that for the future they would have to become seniors. He hoped that more clubs would enter next season into this excellent competition. He congratulated the losers on the great game they had played. The gate money was £12 2s. 9d., and was fairly satisfactory considering that it was between junior teams, and also that so many stiended the game on Saturday. Mr Weston and his two lines.

How The County Times of 14 April 1914 reported the final of the Montgomeryshire Challenge Cup which had taken place the day before on Easter Monday.





The Team line-up





What the 1911 Census tells us

The Townsends were a real 'Warehouse' family: three of the five children were employed by Pryce Jones. Percy's occupation is recorded as a Draper. His sister, Mathilda (Tillie), is a typist and 14 year old Albert is a warehouseman. They are living in the New Inn (now The Sportsman), in Severn Street, Newtown.

Percy was following in his father's footsteps as a footballer. Alfred had been a member of the victorious Newtown team of 1895 which won the Senior Welsh Cup against Wrexham.



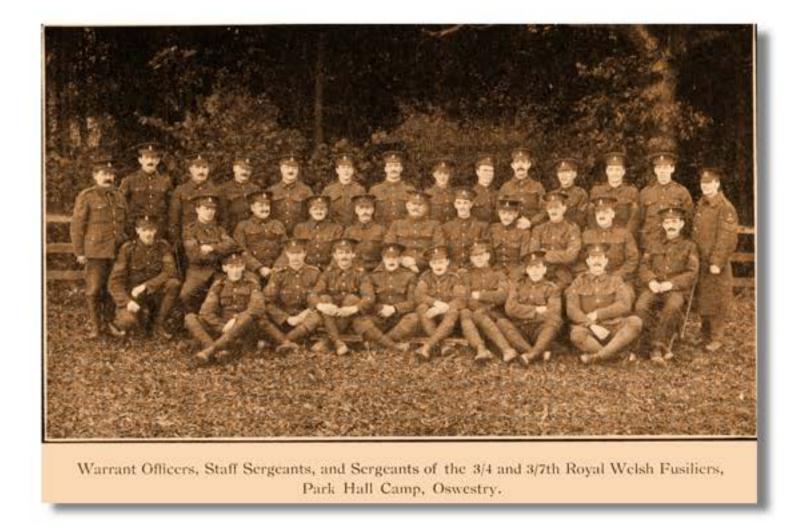
Christmas card sent by Percy
(With thanks to Gordon Townsend)

Charles Percy Townsend (Goalkeeper)

Age in 1914: 22

Service in WW1

Only his medal index card survives. Like many of his team mates, he probably joined the Territorials before the war but at the outbreak of war he was assigned to the reserve battalion of 7 RWF and spent the first part of the war at Park Hall, Oswestry. He may have joined the Royal Welsh Fusiliers in Egypt and fought against the Turks in Palestine before being transferred to France in early 1918 where he was involved in the final battles of the the Western Front.



Percy is kneeling on the extreme left of the middle row in this photograph taken in 1915.

(With thanks to Gordon Townsend)



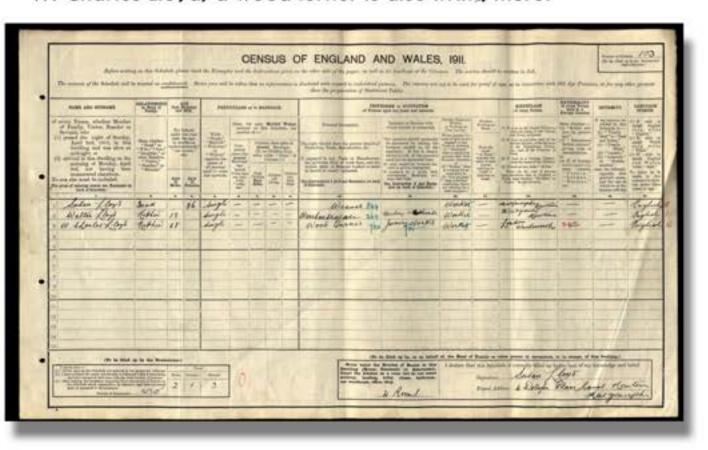
The Team line-up



2

What the 1911 Census tells us

18 year old Walter was a drapery warehouseman, born in Newtown, residing with his aunt Miss Susie Lloyd at Dolafon Place, Canal, Newtown. Another nephew of Susan, 21 year old W. Charles Lloyd, a wood turner is also living there.



Walter Lloyd (Right Back)

Age in 1914: 21

Service in WW1

Only his medal record has survived (below), which reveals that he volunteered for active service with the Royal Welsh Fusiliers the day after war was declared. However, his original regimental number of 979 indicates that he had enlisted in the Territorials long before the war.

He first entered the conflict a year later. The record card indicates the Balkan campaign, and the code of '2B' and the date of 8 August 1915 confirms his involvement in the Gallipoli landings at Suvla Bay.

Having survived the hell of Gallipoli, he went on to serve in Egypt and Palestine, before standing down from active service in April 1919 as Corporal Walter Lloyd. He was not discharged from military service until March 1920.





The Team line-up

3

Clifford Harris (Left Full Back)

What the 1911 Census shows us

16 year old Clifford is a tailor at Pryce-Jones Ltd, living in the parental home of Stephen and Katie Harris in the canal area of Newtown.



Age in 1914: 19

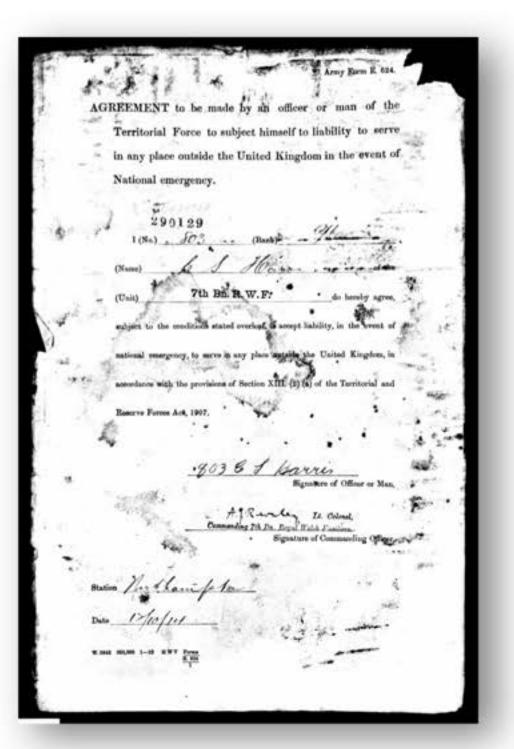
Service in WW1

Signed up in the Territorial Force in January 1913. Enlisted for active service in October 1914. He became a Signaller with the 7th Battalion, RWF at Gallipoli. Narrowly escaped death, as he related in a letter of 16 August 1915 (top right).

After his lucky escape, Clifford continued to Egypt but contracted dysentery. By 1918 he was serving in France where he was wounded and sent home to recover.

Spring 1918: Clifford took the opportunity of his convalescence to marry Daisy, daughter of John Maurice Jones, Hon. Sec of the Sports and Recreation Society and father of team captain, Maurice Jones.

"We have been in the fighting line for six days. It was fighting, no half and half. It was terrible. We were under shell fire as soon as we landed . . . I was in charge the day we landed, and the bullets were falling like rain. You know the watch Aunt Hannah gave me, well it saved my life. The bullet would have surely killed me only for the watch. I was wearing it on my belt just on my hip, and that saved me. Was running the wire out at the time. As well as the bullet in my watch, I had one through my sleeve, but it never touched me. It was marvellous, but I suppose I was in the keeping of the One above, and I thank him too. Well, I hope it will soon be over and I will see vou soon."



Army Conditions of Service signed by Clifford in October 1914.





The Team line-up



What the 1911 Census tells us

Richard is a 22 year old warehouseman at the RWW. The son of Evan, an innkeeper at the Angel Vaults, High Street, and his wife Elizabeth. In addition to Richard and his parents, the household consists of sister Lily and cousin Norah. Both Norah and Lilly are described as 'assisting in the business' of Evan.

In 1911, Richard was looking forward to his wedding day with Ethel Roberts. This would take place in July 1911. The following year a daughter, Lilly was born to the couple. The marriage would last for sixty years.

Richard was one of only two married men in the RWW team at the time of the cup final.

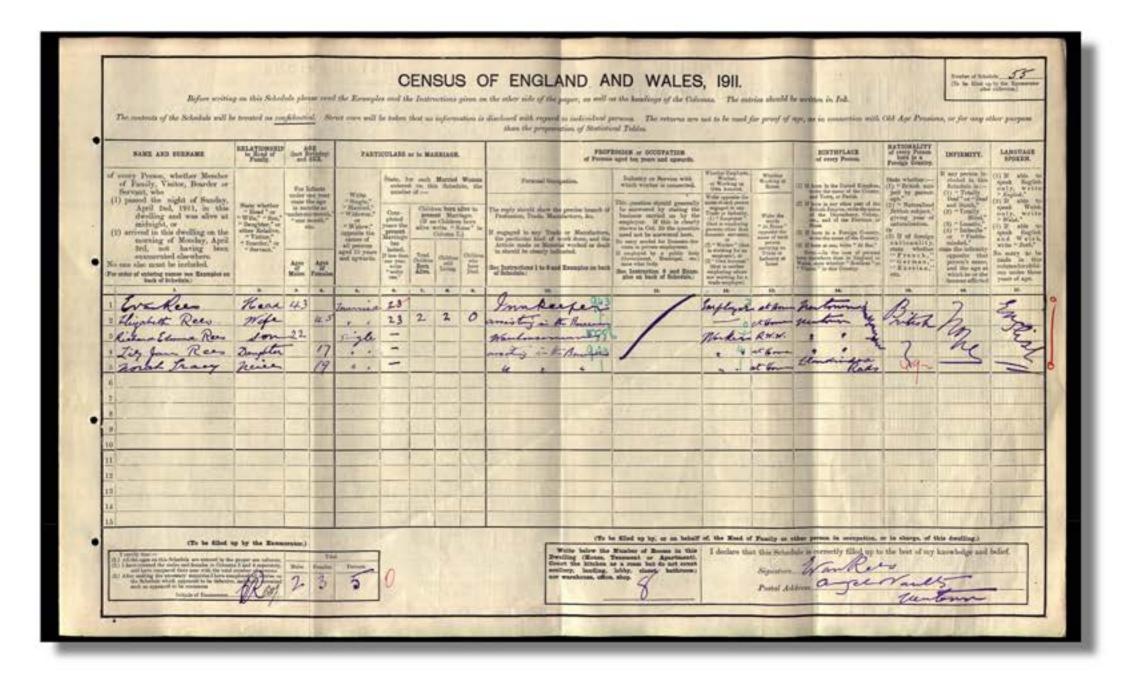


Richard Edmund Rees (Right Half Back)

Age in 1914: 26

Service in WW1

No records survive, but according to his obituary, he served in the RWF and it is likely that he too saw action in the Middle East with his team mates.





The Team line-up



John Ewart Breese (Centre-half)

Age in 1914: 25.

Service in WW1

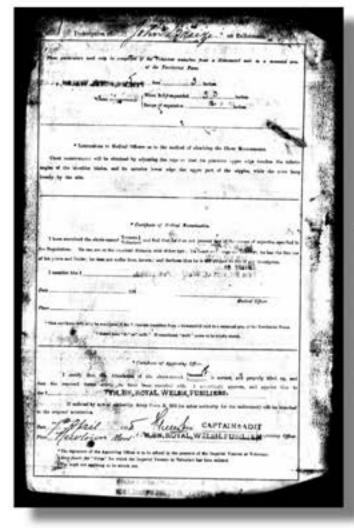
Enlisted as a bugle boy with the South Wales Borderers as a Territorial in 1906 aged 16. Transferred to 7th. Battalion RWF in 1907. Wounded in action in Gallipoli in 1915. Died in action at the Battle of Tel el Khuweilfe, 6 November 1917.

SENGT I BREEZE, NEWTOWN.

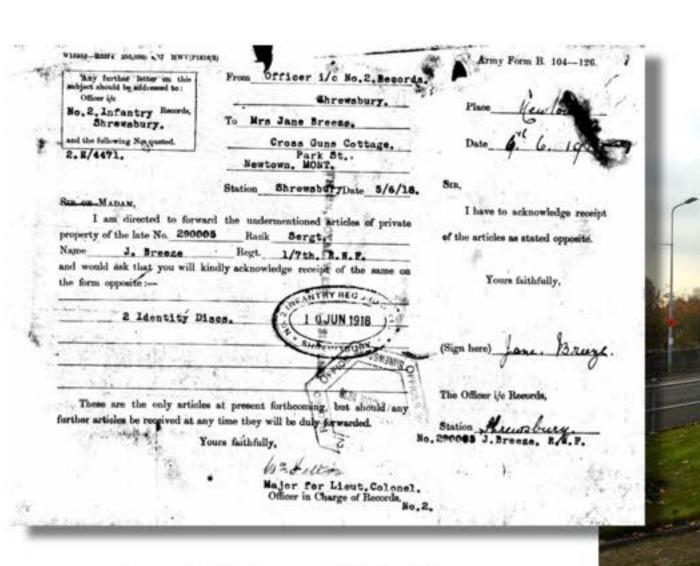
Mr and Mr. George Bronze, Perk street,
Newtown, were on Tuesday officially informed that their son Sorgt Jack Bronze,
had been tilled in action on November 5th.
Sorgt Breeze, who was 20 years of age, had
been in the Territorial, since he was 16,
and was called up at the outbreak. He was
in the Gallipoli fighting, where he was
wounded about two years ago. He came
home on short leave and was afterwards cent
to Egypt. He was formerly employed at
the h,W.W., and was at all times keenly
interested in football, being a member of
the local football team, and an enthusiastic
all-round sportsman. His death is greatly
regretted by his many friends and acquaint-

What the 1911 Census tells us

He is the eldest of six children born to George, a sawyer, and his wife Jane of Cross Guns Cottage, Park Street. The family is heavily reliant on the textile industry. Of the four children employed, one is a weaver, another a pattern sorter, another a dressmaker. John is employed by Pryce Jones as a Draper's assistant.



John's service record (right) shows that at five foot three and weighing a modest eight and a half stone, he was one of the smaller members of the team. Centre-half was a strange position for a man of such slight build. Perhaps this indicates what a tough character he was.



A record of John's personal effects which were returned to his mother in 1918

Top: John's death reported in The County Times.

Above: John's name is recorded on the west face of the Cenotaph.



The Team line-up



What the 1911 Census tells us

20 year old Richard is one of nine children born to John and Mary Jones, Quarry Cottage, Canal Road.

He is employed as a draper in the RWW. His father is a bricklayer on the Shropshire Union Canal, but essentially the family is a textile family. All the employable children (6) are in some way connected to the industry. Three, including Richard are drapers. The other two are employed by Jones, Evans & Co. Ltd. (the factory owned by Pryce-Jones). Pollie, a 16 year old sister, is a hosiery knitter with the same company, while her 14 year old sister is an apprentice dressmaker with a firm named Rogers.

6

Richard Alfred Jones (Left Half-back)

Age in 1914: 23

Service in WW1

He joined 5th Battalion RWF in Feb 1915, too late to take part in the Gallipoli Campaign. He was posted to Egypt in Jan 1916 where the battalion formed part of the 53rd (Welsh) Division. His Division crossed the Sinai into Palestine in 1917. He was reported missing in action and later confirmed dead on 9 March 1918.

It is likely that he was killed at the Battle of Tel Assur (8-12 March, 1918) near Jerusalem. His name is inscribed on the Jerusalem memorial.

Mr and Mrs John Jones, Quarry Cottage, Canal road, Newtown, received intimation on Wednesday, that their son, Pte Richd Arthur Jones, had been missing, in Egypt since March 8th. Pte Jones enlisted in February. 1915, and after being trained in Oswestry, was sent to Egypt in January, 1916. Until now he has been very lucky, never having been Ill at all. He is one of four soldier brothers-one Sergt John Jones, is in France; another, Cpl George Jones, in Salonica; and the third, Pte Henry Jones, in Warrington, Before enhisting he was employed at R.W.W. and was very well known in the town, being an enthusiastic footballer and cricket player in the local team and in the R.W.W teams.

> Richard's obituary appeared in 'The County Times' on 30th. March, 1918 and, right, official notification of his death.

Any further letter on this subject should be addressed to—	WAR OFFICE,
The Secretary,	ALEXANDRA HOUSE,
War Office, Alexandra House,	KINGSWAY, W.C.2,
Kingsway, London, W.C.2,	
and the number below quoted.	25 Cungust 191
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C 2. Casualties D.P.(A). *
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The Officer	in charge of %0.2 Records
	About the Chambers of Shire
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Name Cons	s X.a.
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What have d	Suppoil has desided that this while
	Council has decided that this soldier
to be regarded	for official purposes as having di-

The next-of-kin should be notified accordingly on

Army Form B. 104-82a, and the usual papers prepared,

if this has not already been done. In accordance with

C. 2, Casualties), the Regimental Paymaster should be

notified that this is a case where Army Form B.

2090C, is not being employed, and that he should take



The Team line-up



What the 1911 Census tells us

Born in 1895, Ewart is still living in the family home at 3 Cross St, Penygloddfa, close to the present day Bell public house. He is employed in the RWW as a Draper. Three other brothers, David, Ernest and Harry (also a talented footballer and destined to play for Liverpool and Wales) were also employed there.



William Ewart Beadles (Outside Right)

Age in 1914: 20

Service in WW1

He enlisted as Private 988 in 7th Bn RWF on the day war broke out having previously joining the RWF Territorial Force. In August 1915 he embarked for Gallipoli with 1/7th Bn. RWF. Evacuated from Gallipoli to Egypt in December 1915 he then served in Palestine where, as Sergeant, was in action at the Battles of Gaza, Beersheba and Tel Khuweilfa On 13th Nov 1917 he was awarded the Military Medal for bravery in the action at Tel el Khuweilfa. He was also awarded the Silver War Badge in January 1918. Such badges were usually issued to soldiers receiving a wound or other disability while on active service overseas.

"Just a line to break the news that we have been in action and have lost rather heavily, but Harold and I are all right, thank God. It was a terrible time . . . I can't write now, as I feel upset about some of my pals who have been killed"

William Ewart Beadles in a letter to his friend D. Jabez Jones (1915)

Ewart's fire damaged attestation papers, August 1914

Name Million fores	TATION OF Corps
Make is your Name ! In or near what Parish or Town were you bern! Are you a Reitish Subject! What is your Age! What is your Trade or Calling! So he where suppley are you! Are you now an Apprentise! If so, please states perturbers. Are you now an Apprentise! If so, please states perturbers. Are you now an Apprentise! If so, please states perturbers. Are you now an Apprentise! If so, please states perturbers. Are you now the long to the Army, the Marines, they Million, the Million Source, the Terriberial From, the Soyal Key, the Army Reserve (Deplate or Repeate) or sey Nevel Key, the Army Reserve (Deplate or Repeate) or sey Nevel Key, the Army Reserve (Deplate or Repeate) or Million, the William Reserve, the Reserve How. Hare you care server (Deplate or Repeate) or Marines, the Million to the William Reserve, the Reserve How. If the you seem server in the Army, the Marines, the Million of Heavy Reserve How III as you had not a Heavy Nevel Reserve Form! If any you cover been rejected as until for the Milliony to Nevel Form of the Count. If an, on what general? If the you reserve been rejected as until for the Milliony to Nevel Form of the Count. If an, on what general? If Are you reserve been rejected as until for the Milliony to Nevel Form of the Count. If an on what general? If the you conference of the Count. If an on what general? If the you conference of the Count II an on what general? If the you conference of the count is the Townson's Form of the travel of the service is the Townson's Heavy to the term of the count is the property resident pour market property in the II. The you conference of the count of the three departs in the Particular of the service representation in the service representation in the property resident pour and ball the other members related to the property to the town of the count which you have educated the property of the town in providence of the town of the count of the count of the town	10. The state of the second of
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will be faithful and tear true Allegiance to His Ma	do make C exty King George the Pifth, His Heim, and Succe defend His Majority, His Helm, and Successors, in Purso



Cup Final Day: April 13 1914

The Team line-up



What the 1911 Census tells us

Bert"s father Edward was originally from Somerset. He had moved to Town where he met and married his wife, Sarah.

In 1911, the family is living at 7 Francis Place, Newtown. Bert is the second son and fourth child He is employed as a warehouseman at RWW. It is possible that his father, a tailor, is also employed there, whilst his brother is a railway clerk.

The close-knit ties of the RWW players is demonstrated by the fact that Bert would go on to marry Mathilda Townsend on 27 June 1915. Mathilda, or Tillie as she was known, was goalkeeper Percy Townsend's sister.

8

Bert Evans (Inside Right)

Age in 1914: 22

Service in WW1

Little detail known as his service record has not survived. Family tradition indicates that he did serve in the army, probably in the RWF. His marriage in 1915 indicates that he was not involved in the Gallipoli campaign. He may have served in Egypt, but like his brother-in-law Percy Townsend was transferred to the Western Front where he survived a German gas attack.



Bert is pictured in an earlier unknown team photo of c.1910. He is the last player second from right with the child. The first player on the left is his future brother-in-law and RWW team mate, Percy Townsend.

(With thanks to Chris Roach)



The Team line-up



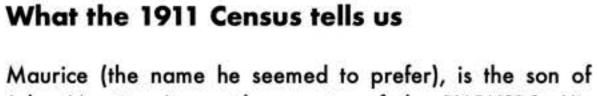
9

Stanley Maurice Jones (Captain and Centre Forward)

Age in 1914: 26

Service in WW1

Records have not survived. The Army Medal Roll shows that he joined the Royal Engineers and was qualified to receive the Victory and General Service Medals. He is identified in one photograph indicating that he served with the Royal Engineers, although where is unknown.



Maurice (the name he seemed to preter), is the son of John Maurice Jones, the creator of the RWWSRS. His father and mother, Florence and his two siblings, Daisy and Dora all work for Pryce-Jones. But Maurice is a joiner at a saw mill.

This census suggest that Maurice did not join the staff of the RWW until after 1911. If this is true, then his time there was brief. Shortly after playing in the 1914 Cup Final in Maurice left Newtown to marry Alice Cranston.

Alice's father, a Scottish weaver, is working in the tweed factory in the Cambrian Mill. Following its destruction in a devastating fire in 1912, he left with his family for Huddersfield where the prospects of employment were better. Maurice and Alice married in Pendlebury in June 1914.

Maurice's sister, Daisy, provides another close tie to the team when she marries her brother's team mate, Clifford Harris in 1915.



Corporal Maurice Jones (seated centre) poses with his fellow soldiers. He is wearing the cap badge and insignia of the Signals Corps, Royal Engineers.

With thanks to Andrew Gentle



The Team line-up



10

What the 1911 Census tells us

Harry, is the eldest child of Thomas, an insurance clerk, and Sarah Boulton of Brynfield House, Bryn St, Penygloddfa. Thomas and Sarah have been married for 23 years.

Harry is employed as a draper with "Pryce Jones Stores". In addition to his sister Amy, Harry has two step siblings - Lizzie and Edward Garnett. All four children are employed by Pryce Jones.

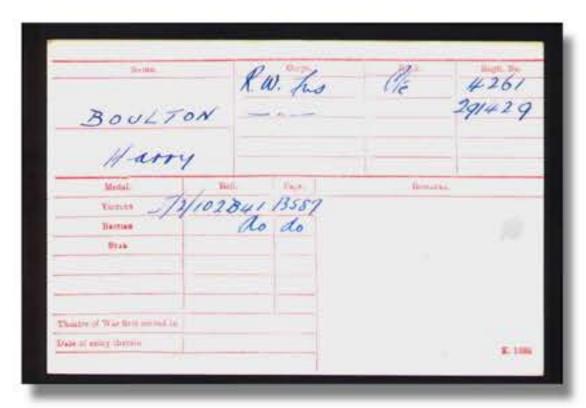
Harry was a gifted footballer, having trials for both Wolves and Wales and scoring the winning goal in the RWW cup final. He was also an accomplished cricketer, playing wicket keeper and bowler for the RWW cricket team.

Harry Boulton (Inside Left) Age in 1914: 24

Service in WW1

Harry's service record has not survived, but he must have joined the territorial force before the war, for a newspaper report shows him playing in the RWF team against Cefn Druids in 1910. He missed the Gallipoli Campaign and like his team mate, Richard A. Jones, joined the RWF in Egypt in January 1916.

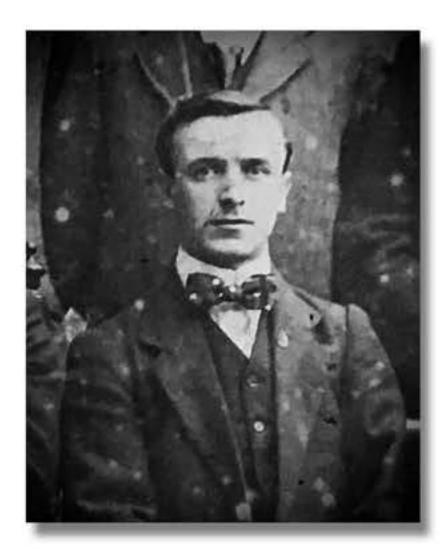
Harry's medal card is all that has survived of his service record and shows that he was awarded the Victory and General Service Medal, but not the 1915 star. This indicates that he did not serve in the Gallipoli campaign



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The Team line-up



What the 1911 Census tells us

20 year old George is living in Skinner St with his widowed mother, Annie. George has no occupation assigned to him. Ellyn, his sister, is employed at the "Royal Welch Warehouse'"and his brother William at the Cambrian Mills.

George's enrolment papers (right) show that he was classed as B1 fit for service, i.e. not fit for front line duties but "able to march at least five miles, to see to shoot with glasses, and to hear well". George was consequently assigned to the 1/3 Welsh Signals Corps, Royal Engineers. Other papers in his war record show that he was the second married member of the RWW team having married Fanny Thomas on 1 November, 1913. At five foot two and a half he was also the shortest man in the team.

George Williams (Outside Left)

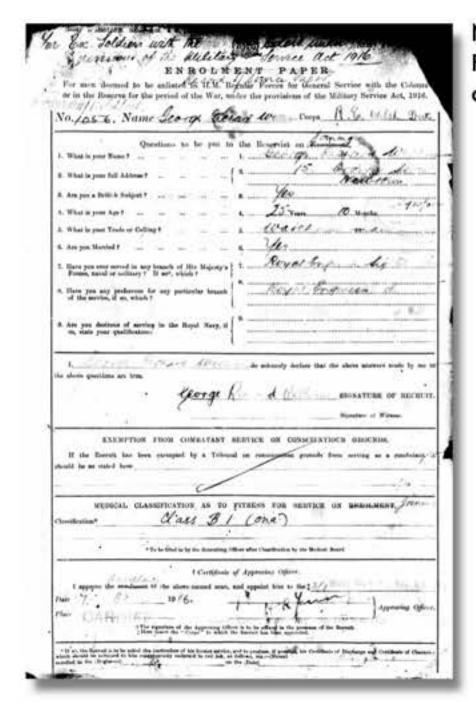
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Age in 1914: 23

Service in WW1

George's service record is incomplete. What has survived relates to his time in the Royal Engineers, post-July 1916. However, it is possible from this and from two newspaper entries in The County Times and Montgomeryshire Express to reconstruct his earlier service history.

George had originally enlisted in the Territorial Force on 19 February 1910. In August 1914 he volunteered for active service and was probably amongst those RWFs who left Newtown later that month. He fought with his four other RWW team mates at Suvla Bay in 1915 and was evacuated to Egypt in December of that year. On 2 June 1916, he received his discharge "as time expired" (The County Times). But by the end of the month he had re-enlisted and was assigned to 3/1 Welsh Division Signal Company, Royal Engineers.



Now, as 452611 Pioneer George Williams, he was despatched to France. But in early 1918 he was invalided home with appendicitis.

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George's military career had a few bumps. His disciplinary record was not perfect. He was guilty of disobedience, outstaying his embarkation leave by two days and appearing on parade with a dirty cap badge, for which he received 3 days confined to barracks!. These all occurred just before and immediately after the Armistice, so perhaps standards were slipping.

War! 1914

After a month of diplomatic tension, following the assassination of the Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir to the Astro-Hungarian Empire, Britain followed her allies Russia and France and finally declared war on Germany, Austria Hungary and Turkey. The Triple Entente would challenge the Triple Alliance for control of Europe.





August 22nd., 1914, 7th Battalion, Royal Welsh Fusiliers march through Broad Street to the station following mobilisation. The battalion consisted of 19 officers and 890 men. Of the bandsmen leading the march, 17 had been members of Newtown Silver Band. Somewhere amongst the marching soldiers are at least five members of the RWW football team.

"B" Company - a 'Pals' Company



Ewart Beadles



John Breese



Walter Lloyd



Clifford Harris



George Williams

'B' Company of the 7th Battalion consisted mainly of recruits drawn from the Newtown area. It was a close-knit group. Many had worked together at the Royal Welsh Warehouse. When the company marched out of Newtown in August 1914, it contained five of the victorious RWW football team.

Ewart Beadles fought with his two brothers, and saw his uncle die beside him at Gallipoli. His younger brother Ernie, would also die of wounds sustained there.

Many of the company had joined as 16 and 17 year old 'Territorials' long before the war. Prior to 1914, the company did not have a particularly good reputation. They were often the butt of local jokes and sometimes described as "sham soldiers".

By 1918, these "sham soldiers" had been tested to the limit.

Another photograph of the 7th RWF departure on August 22. Look carefully at some of the expressions on the faces of the troops. Do they look as though they are going off to battle?



John Breese joined up as a 16 year old bugle boy in March 1906. He reengaged on a one year contract until 1909 when he extended it to a four year period.

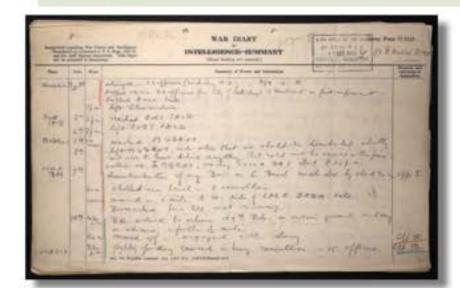
Above: the Pryce Jones family loomed large in the life of John and his colleagues. His agreement is witnessed by A.W. Pryce-Jones, his commanding Officer.



Gallipoli 1915

In July 1915, the five 'Warehousemen' of the 7th Battalion Royal Welsh Fusiliers sailed for the Gallipoli Peninsula as part of the 53rd (Welsh) Division. Their mission: to seize Turkish positions and gain control of the Dardanelles Straits connecting the Aegean and Black Seas.

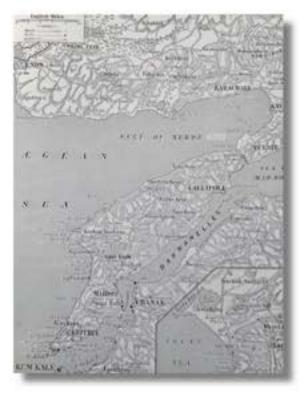
They landed on the beaches near Suvla Bay on 9th August 1915.



In mid October, the battalion were sent back into action to take impregnable Turkish positions in the hills. Often fighting hand-to-hand, in torrential rain, floods and freezing blizzards, the troops pushed forward.

By December, the five 'Warehousemen' had remained unscathed. But on 8 December, John Breese received a shrapnel wound. Two days later, the 7th were withdrawn along with the whole 53rd Division. Of the 19,000 men who had landed in August only 2,500 remained fit for action.





The official war diary of the 7th Battalion(left) records the landing masks the actual chaos of the day. Men failed to meet up with their supplies, they had no maps and precious little drinking water. Worst of all was the constant sniping from the crack Turkish sharpshooters positioned on the hills above. In the first 24 hours, the 7th had lost 60 men with a further 300 wounded. By the 14 August, the battalion was evacuated to the island of Mudros. Their casualties so high that they were no longer considered to be an effective force.



August 1915: above, allied forces disembark at Suvla Bay.

Below, mule trains transport much needed drinking water to the troops



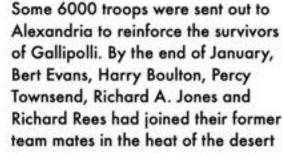
John Breese's service papers records his participation in the M.E.F. (Mediterranean Expeditionary Force) as well as the subsequent Egyptian campaign. Under the list of medals he was awarded, is the stark record of his wounding on 8 December. John was one of the 16,500 casualties suffered by the 53rd (Welsh) Division between October and December 1915.

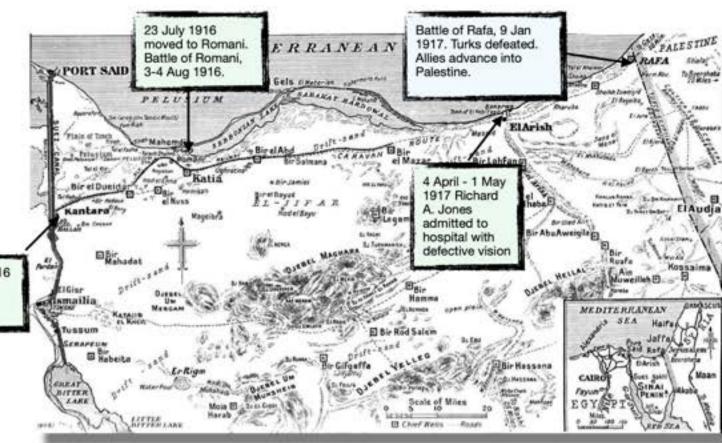
"Tell Wales my Welsh Division fought magnificently and stood up to superior numbers for three days and nights and guarded my right flank while we broke the Turkish centre. I am intensely proud of my troops, who fairly carried the Turk off his legs with their impetuosity."

Lieut-General Sir Phillip Chetwoode (commander of XX Corps, of which the 7th were a part), quoted in 'The County Times, 22 Dec. 1917

The 7th. in Egypt 1916

The 7th Battalion arrived at Alexandria on 19 December, 1915. Their numbers had been reduced to 16 officers and 265 men. They spent the first half of 1916 near Cairo recovering their strength and their numbers, before entering the Sinai Desert to assist in the building of a railway to carry the war to the Turks in Palestine. The railway would link Kantara in the west with Rafa in the east.













Compared to Gallipolli, their time in Egypt was less stressful. The main problems was the heat and dysentery. Football was a major source of relaxation. There were monthly Divisional competitions and, in January 1917, the 158th Brigade Cup, won by the 7th Battalion. How many of the Warehouse players took part is unknown, although Sergeant Ewart Beadles did play in the Brigade Final. None of the Warehousemen appear to be present in this photograph, although another Newtown man, George Latham is seated second from right

arrived at



Death in Palestine: 191*7*-18

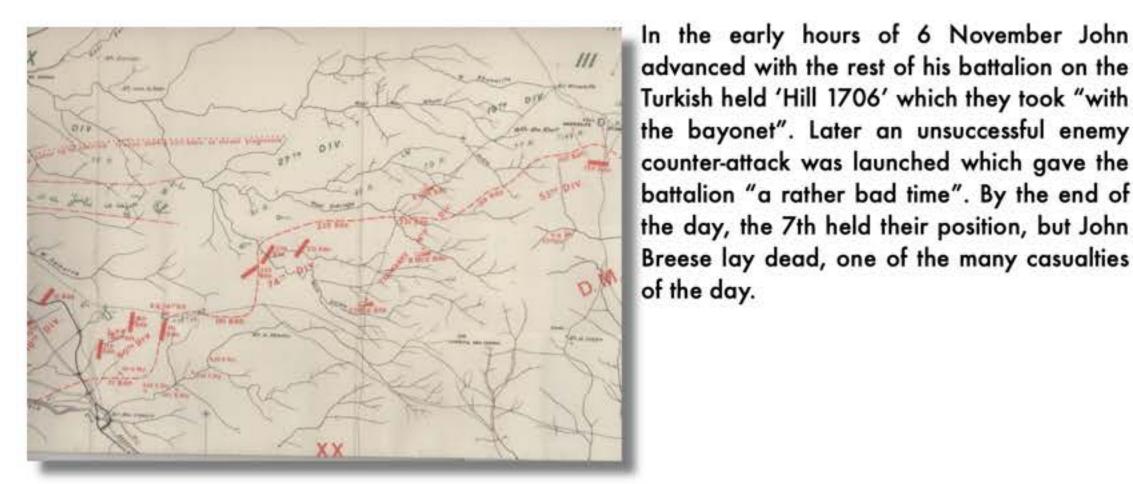
From January 1917 to October 1918 an arduous campaign, barely understood by the British people, was fought for control of Palestine. After a year of relative quiet, the ten warehousemen would participate in some of the fiercest battles of the campaign, at Gaza, Beersheba and many more. Sadly, two would never return home.



John Breese

Following his wounding in Gallipoli in December 1915, he was evacuated to Alexandria and thence returned home on 24 January 1916. Six months later, recovered from his wounds, he returned to the 7th Battalion in Egypt as acting sergeant.

In January 1917 he advanced into Palestine with the rest of his comrades and fought at the battles of Gaza and Beersheba. Following the capture of Beersheba on the road to Jerusalem on 30 October 1917, an allied attack was launched on Turkish positions at Tel el Khuweilfa.



advanced with the rest of his battalion on the Turkish held 'Hill 1706' which they took "with the bayonet". Later an unsuccessful enemy counter-attack was launched which gave the battalion "a rather bad time". By the end of the day, the 7th held their position, but John Breese lay dead, one of the many casualties of the day.

Richard Alfred Jones

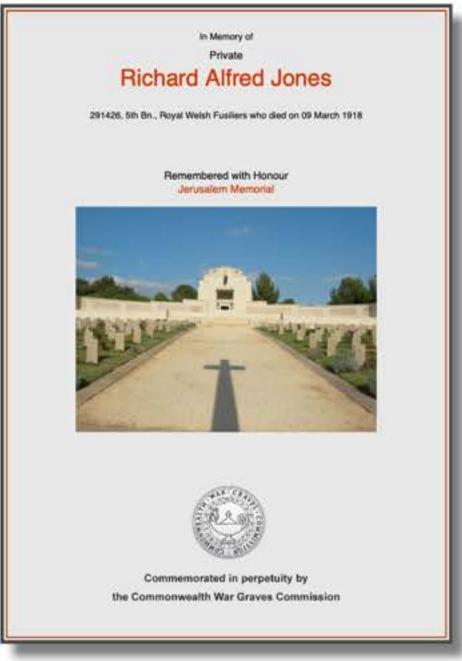
His early army career had been disappointing. Wishing to be assigned to the 7th with his other pals, instead he was placed in a reserve battalion, due to his poor eyesight and what was described as only "fair' development. But by the end of 1916, he was pronounced "Fit for General Service" and by January 1917 he had arrived in Alexandria joining the 1/5th Battalion RWF.



From Alexandria, he entrained across the Sinai on the railway built by his old teammates in time to take part in the first Battle of Gaza (26-27 March 1917). But problems with eyesight dogged him and he was admitted to the Second Australian Stationary Hospital at El Arish, back in the Sinai, with "Defective vision" where he remained for a month.

From May 1917, Richard was back in the fighting line and saw action repeatedly.

On the morning of 8 March 1918, the 5th Battalion successfully captured a Turkish hilltop observation post at Tel Assur, north of Jerusalem. Here they successfully withstood four Turkish counterattacks in a desperate pitched battle. Richard was initially posted as missing in action and later confirmed dead, his body never found.



Campaign map of Beersheba area, showing the position of the 53rd (Welsh) Division and Tel el Khuweilfa at top right

France: 1918



Clifford Harris

Pte Harris was sent to France in 1918 where he was wounded in battle. His wounds were

sufficiently serious to declare him class Biii, unfit for active service. In August 1918, he was transferred to the Army Service Corp and spent the final months of the war at Woolwich Dockyard.



Bert Evans

Little is known about his military service, beyond his obituary in 1968, which states he served in France. It is possible

that, like his future brother-in-law, Percy, his career followed a similar path. Whilst in France, Bert suffered a serious gas injury during a German assault.



George Williams

George had a different journey to France. After battling through Gallipoli and the heat, flies and dysentery of Egypt, he was discharged from the army in

July 1916. But this was not the end of his war. On July 27 he re-enlisted, joining the 3/1 Welsh Division Signal Company. In January 1917 he was sent to the Western Front. By late January 1918, he was back home having suffered appendicitis.

With thanks to Gordon Townsend.

For so many Britons, both then and now, the Western Front is synonymous with the horrors of World War One. Four of the Warehouse team are known to have served there. In March 1917, a new battalion of the RWF was formed in Egypt; the 24th Battalion. In May 1918, the Battalion was transferred to France as part of the 31st Division.

Many of the troops serving in the 7th were transferred to the new battalion, their places taken by soldiers drafted in from India. The 24th participated in some of the closing battles of World War One including St Quentin, the Second Battle of the Somme and the final advance in Artois and Flanders.



Percy Townsend

Sergeant Townsend was transferred to the 24th Battalion at some point between March1917 and May 1918. The surviving

evidence indicates that he entered service as a member of the 7th Battalion, which might suggest Egypt and was then transferred. Once in France he seems to have been "struck off the strength", indicating that he suffered a wound, or gassing. Whatever happened, his conduct was worthy of recognition, as the citation below, signed by Winston S. Churchill reveals.



1914 marked the high water mark for the RWW Sports. Despite attempts to revive the event following peace in 1918, it would never again attract the same crowds. All competitive football was suspended for the duration of the war. The RWW Football Club was never revived. The survivors of the 1914 team returned to pick up their lives in a new world.

Percy Townsend

After his discharge in 1919, he returned to Newtown, perhaps taking over the licence of the New Inn from his father. In 1923, he married Elizabeth Gwen Evans of Pontypridd. The couple had four children. By 1939, they had moved to Llanidloes and Percy became the landlord of The Elephant Hotel. He remained in the Elephant until his retirement in 1965.

Percy died in his home in Llanidloes at the age of 83.



Percy's wedding day, June, 1923. Percy and his bride, Gwen, are seated centre, surrounded by members of their families. Bert Evans, another member of the RWW team, is standing, extreme left, with his wife Tillie, one of Percy's sisters. (With thanks to Chris Roach/Gordon Townsend)

Aftermath

John Breese Killed in action 6th November 1917 aged 28



Clifford Harris

When Clifford was discharged from the army in February 1919, he was still suffering from dysentery and was granted an army pension for 26 weeks. Nevertheless, he recovered and was able to return to work as a tailor with Pryce Jones. By 1939 he was a tailoring Foreman living in 'lvydene', Nantoer. He died, aged 70 in 1966.

Richard E Rees

After discharge, Richard settled back in Newtown, marrying Ethel. The marriage would last 60 years and produce three children.

When World War Two broke out, Richard was working in the top secret 'shadow factory' of Accles & Pollock at the Lion Works manufacturing munitions. He would remain there until his retirement. He died aged 82 at his home, 11 Dysart Terrace, Llanllwchaiarn.

Walter Lloyd

Walter returned to his pre-war job as a draper. During World War Two he served as an Air Raid Protection Warden. He remained a keen sportsman and was still playing cricket for Newtown in his fifties. Walter's grandson, Stephen, writes, "Walter lived to the age of 80 and enjoyed remarkably good health, his last, being his only real illness. He lived in Newtown throughout his life, working for MANWEB for many years. He was a keen fisherman often seen cycling on his heavy Phillips bike to Aberbechan Brook and beyond".



Above: Walter is pictured fourth from left, back row in this photo of Newtown Cricket Club, 1947

Maurice Jones

Returned to his wife Alice and his home in Huddersfield. In 1939, he was sharing the home with Alice's sister and aged mother. He was working as a wood machinist. Three years later, Maurice was dead, at the age of 53.



Bert Evans (above, with wife Tillie in Berriew on their 50th wedding anniversary. (with thanks to Chris Roach)

Bert returned to the RWW after his discharge eventually rising to the position of Manager -Buyer in the underwear department. In 1952 he retired to give his full attention to managing The Lion Hotel in Berriew. He played an active part in village life, being a church bell ringer and becoming president of Berriew Football Club. He died 30 Jan 1968 at The Lion Hotel, Berriew, aged 76.

Aftermath

Richard Jones Killed in action 9th March 1918 Aged 29



Bronze commemorative plaque (known as 'The Dead Man's Penny'), presented to the next-of-kin of all service personnel killed in World War 1

George Williams

Returned to Newtown after being discharged on 31 March 1920. He reenlisted in 7th Bn. RWF Territorial Army on 9 June 1921. In 1939 he was living in Park St and was working as an auxiliary postman.

He died in 1973, aged 82.

Ewart Beadles

He did not return home until 19 Jan 1919 and was finally discharged 31 March 1920, giving him a total of 5 years and 240 days service. Shortly after discharge, he moved to Prescott, Lancashire, married and became a psychiatric nurse. Within four years of his discharge from the regular army, he re-enlisted with RWF 7th Battalion Territorial Army as 4185563 and served 1924 to 1939.

He died in 1958 aged 63 and was buried at Rainhill Cemetery, Liverpool.

Harry Boulton

Harry returned to his old job as a draper at the RWW and worked there until his sudden death in 1954 at the age of 65.

> Harry's obituary, The County Times, 11 Dec. 1954

We regret to record the death of a well known Newtonian, Mr Harry Boulton, '4 Garth Owen, who died very suddenly on Monday. Mr Bouston had spent practically all his working life at Messrs. Pryce Jones' and was there, as usual, on Monday morning.



was a churchman and a former mem-ber of Llanllwchaiarn Church. He is the Musses Ruth, Jean and Joyce Boulton, one sister, Mrs Tom Lloyd, Huddersfield, a half-sister, Mrs E. Williams, Ammanford, and a half-brother, Mr. E. Garnett, Manchester, Another half-brother died in Canada a month ago. The funeral took place at the ceme-