

First World War

Created:	2014
Number of panels:	8+7
Format:	Pull-up banners (80 x 210cm, 31½" x 84")
Synopsis:	An exhibition to commemorate the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War.

It comes in two parts, the first of eight panels and the second of seven. The first, entitled 'Remembering our Heroes', includes case studies of particular soldiers, with panels entitled proud to serve; Lance Corporal William Fuller VC; Chief Petty Officer George Prowse VC DCM; 2nd Lieut Rupert Price Hallows VC MC; Captain John Stanley Strange DSO MC; Captain H W Godfrey Jones MC; and John Oliver Watkins CdeG.

The second part is entitled 'Some things we forgot to remember'. The panels are entitled The contribution of women; the contribution of India; Belgian refugees; the treatment of conscientious objectors; and the aftermath of war.

Images of the individual boards appear on subsequent pages.

1914-1918

Remembering our Heroes Cofio ein Harwyr



With thanks to the following for their help in creating this exhibition

Cyda diolch i'r bobl ganlynol am eu help wrth greu'r arddangosfa hon:

*Mr Bruce Blanche, Mrs Eiriona Harris-Phillips, Mr Ron Layler, Mr Bernard Lewis,
Mrs Jenny Morris and Mr Philip Watkins*



Proud to Serve Yn Falch o Wasanaethu



What makes a hero?

Perhaps the answer to this question lies in our shared respect for physical and moral courage and for actions of self-sacrifice, qualities which we admire in others and which, consciously or unconsciously, we often measure our own actions against.

The servicemen who fought and died in the First World War might well not have considered themselves as heroes, since so many had limited choice over their own actions. However we can with the benefit of a century's hindsight identify heroic qualities in their underlying motivation to defend their King and Country.

Beth sy'n gwneud arwyr?

Efallai bod yr ateb i'r cwestiwn hwn yn ymwneud â'r parch a rennir genym am at ddewnder corfforol a moesol a hunanberth, rhinweddau rydym yn eu hedmyga mewn pobl eraill ac yr ydym, yn ymwybodol neu'n anymwybodol, yn eu mesur yn aml yn erbyn rhai ein hunain.

Mae'n bosib iawn na fyddai'r milwyr a fu'n ymladd ac a fu farw yn y Rhyfel Byd Cyntaf wodi ystyried eu hunain yn arwyr, gan mai prin roedd y cyfle iddynt molli eu hamgylchadau eu hunain. Fodd bynnag, o'n iathwynt gan mlynedd yn ddiweddarach, gallwn nodi rhinweddau arwrol yn eu cymbellid sythanol i amddiffyn eu Brenin a'n Gwlad.

My father never spoke much of his military service in the First World War and I didn't think of it when he was alive, but as I've got older I've realised he has become for me an absolute hero. (Mrs Eiriona Harris-Phillips, Glais)

Remembering our Heroes Cofio ein Harwyr



Lance Corporal William Fuller VC



William Fuller was born in Langhorne and grew up in Swansea. He joined the Army in 1902 and as a reservist was called up to serve in the Welsh Regiment on the outbreak of war. On 14 September 1914 near Chivy-sur-Aisne in France, Lance-Corporal Fuller advanced under heavy enemy rifle and machine-gun fire to extract a wounded officer and carry him back to cover. For his bravery, he became the first Welshman in the First World War to win the Victoria Cross. He survived the rest of the War and died in 1975, being buried in Dwyermonth Cemetery.

The bravery he displayed on that day is commemorated by the motto inscribed in gold under the Barrack clock in the regimental depot in Cardiff. Captain Haggard, the wounded officer rescued by Fuller, is said to have urged on his men by shouting 'Stick it the Welsh'. Captain Haggard later died of his wounds.

Ganed William Fuller yn Nhalacharn ac fe'i magwyd yn Abertawe. Ymunodd i'r fyddin ym 1902 ac ar ddechrau'r rhyfel, ac yntau'n filwr wrth gefn ar y pryd, galwyd arno i wasanaethu yn y Gatradd Gynwraig. Ar 14 Medi 1914 ger Chivy-sur-Aisne yn Ffrainc, gweithiodd Is-gorffwr Fuller ei ffordd trwy ymosodiad trwm gan weillau a gynnau peiriant y gelyn i ddod o byd i swyddog a oedd wedi'i glwyfu a'i gludo'n ôl i loches. Am ei ddewrder, fe oedd y Cymro cyntaf yn y Rhyfel Byd Cyntaf i ennill Croes Victoria. Goroesodd weddill y rhyfel a bu farw ym 1975. Fe'i claddwyd ym mynwent Ystrudlwynnarth.

Mae ei ddewrder ar y diwrnod hwn yn cael ei goffio gan yr arwyddair wedi'i arysgrifio mewn aur o dan cloc y batics yn nepo'r gatradd yng Nghaerdydd. Dywedir i Gaptan Haggard, y swyddog a glwyfyd ac a achubwyd gan Fuller, annog ei ddynion trwy weiddi 'Stick it, the Welsh'. I'n farw Coptan Haggard yn ddiweddarach o'i glwyfau.

For conspicuous gallantry on 14th September near Chivy on the Aisne, by advancing about 100 yards to pick up Captain Haggard who was mortally wounded, and carrying him back to cover under very heavy rifle and machine-gun fire. (Victoria Cross medal citation)



Remembering our Heroes Cofio ein Harwyr

Chief Petty Officer George Prowse VC DCM



George Henry Prowse was born in Llantrisant and by the time he joined up in 1915 was living in Llanfome in Swansea, where he was employed as a coalminer. Although he enlisted initially in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve he was posted to the land-based Drake Battalion, hence it was on the Western Front that he carried out his acts of bravery for which he was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross.

At Premville in France on 2 September 1918, Petty Officer Prowse led a small party of men against an enemy strong point, capturing it, together with 23 prisoners and 5 machine-guns. Later on three other occasions he displayed great heroism in dealing with difficult and dangerous situations, and at one time he dashed forward and attacked and captured two machine-gun posts, killing six of the enemy and taking 13 prisoners and two machine-guns. He was the only survivor of this gallant party, but his action enabled the battalion to push forward in comparative safety. He was killed in action on 27 September 1918 at Annezin in France. George Prowse is commemorated on the Vis-en-Artois memorial in northern France which records the names of over 9,000 men who died in the last months of the War and have no known grave. His widow received his Victoria Cross from King George V at Buckingham Palace in July 1919.

Ganed George Henry Prowse yn Llantrisant oed arbyn iddo ymrestru ym 1915, rneidd yn byw yng Nglandŵr yn Abertawe lle roedd yn gweithio fel glowr. Er iddo ymrestru ar y dechrau gyda Gwefodolwyr With Gefn y Llynges Frenhinol, cafodd ei neilltuo i Ffaliwn Drake, sef batalwn tir. Felly, roedd ar Ffrynt y Gorllewin lle dangosodd y dewnder a arweiniodd at ddyfarnu Croes Victoria iddo ar ôl ei farwolaeth.

Yn Premville yn Ffrainc ar 2 Medi 1918, arweiniodd y Prif Is-swyddog Prowse ymosodiad gyda mintai bach o ddynion ar un o gadarnleudd y gelyn, gan ei gipio, ynghyd i 23 o garcharrion a 5 gwn peiriant. Ar dair adeg arall, dangosodd arweithio fawr wrth ddellio â sefyllfocedd anodd a pheryglus ac, ar un adeg, thuthrodd ymlaen i ymosod ar ddau safle gwn peiriant a'u dal, gan ladd chwe milwr o'r gelyn a chymryd 13 o garcharrion a 2 wri peiriant. Fe oedd yr unig un o'r mintai gwrol i oroes ond trwy ei weithredoedd ef, roedd y batalwn yn gallu gweithio ymlaen mewn diogelwch cymharol. Fe'i laddwyd ar fies y gad ar 27 Medi 1918 yn Annezin yn Ffrainc. Cofhawyd George Prowse ar gofeb Vis-en-Artois yng ngogledd Ffrainc sy'n cofnodi enwau dros 9,000 o ddynion a fu farw ym mlynedd olaf y rhyfel nad oes ganddynt feddau yr ydym yn gwybod amdanynt. Derbyniodd ei wedd ei Groes Victoria gan y Brenin George V ym Mhalas Buckingham ym mis Gorffennaf 1919.



Throughout the whole operations his magnificent example and leadership were an inspiration to all, and his courage was superb. (Victoria Cross medal citation)

Remembering our Heroes Cofio ein Harwyr



2nd Lieut Rupert Price Hallowes VC MC

Second Lieutenant Rupert Price Hallowes was the son of F.R. and Mary Ann Taylor Hallowes of Dan-y-Pfynnon, Port Talbot, though born in Redhill in Surrey. He was awarded the Victoria Cross for most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty during fighting at Hooge in Belgium between 25 September and 1 October 1915, which added to the Military Cross he had won earlier. His medal citation reads that Second Lieutenant Hallowes displayed throughout these days the greatest bravery and untiring energy, and set a magnificent example to his men during four heavy and prolonged bombardments. On more than one occasion he climbed up on the parapet, utterly regardless of danger, in order to put fresh heart into his men. He made daring reconnaissance of the German positions. When the supply of bombs was running short he went back under very heavy shell fire and brought up a fresh supply. Even after he was mortally wounded he continued to cheer those around him and to inspire them with fresh courage.

Rupert Price Hallowes is buried in the War Cemetery at Zillebeke, near Ypres. After his death, the congregation at St Theodore's Church, Port Talbot commissioned two stained glass windows in his honour. His name is also on the cenotaphs at the Vivian and Talbach parks in Port Talbot.



Roedd Is-Lieftenant Rupert Price Hallowes yn fab i F.R. a Mary Ann Taylor Hallowes o Dan-y-Pfynnon, Port Talbot, ar y gamwyd ef yn Redhill, Surrey. Fe'i gwobrwywyd gwaith Chroes Victoria am y dewnder amlycaf a'r ymroddiad mwyaf i ddyletswydd wrth ymladd yn Hooge yng Ngwlad Belg rhwng 25 Medi a 1 Hydref 1915, a hynny yn ogystal â'r Groes Fihwral a ddyfarnwyd iddo'n gynharach. Mae'r ddyfynnau ar ei fedel yn dweud y dangosodd Is-Lieftenant Hallowes y dewnder mwyaf ac egni difinon trwy gydol y dyddiau hynny, a'i fod yn esiampl wych i'w ddynion yn ystod pedwar bombardiad trwm a hir. Ar fwy nag un adeg, dangosodd i fyny i'r rhagfwr, yn gwbl ddiystyriol o'r perygl, er mwyn codi calonau ei ddynion. Gwnaeth hatolau beiddgar i gasglu gwybodaeth am safonedd yr Almaenwyr. Pan oedd y cyflenwad bomiau'n prifhau, aeth yn ôl yn ystod ymosodiad trwm iawn i gasglu cyflenwad newydd. Hyd yn oed ar ôl iddo gael ei glwyfu'n farwol, roedd yn parhau i gasglu'r rhai o'i gwmpas a'u hysbrydoli â dewnder newydd.

Claddwyd Rupert Price Hallowes yn y fymwnt ryfel yn Zillebeke, ger Ypres. Ar ôl iddo farw, comisiynodd cymdeithas Eglwys San Theodor ym Mhort Talbot ddwy ffenest llw i'w anrhydeddo. Mae ei enw hefyd ar seotaff ym mharciau Vivian a Thabach ym Mhort Talbot.

Even after he was mortally wounded he continued to cheer those around him and to inspire them with fresh courage.
(Victoria Cross medal citation)

Remembering our Heroes Cofio ein Harwyr



Captain John Stanley Strange DSO MC



Born in Berkhamstead but living in Swansea at the outbreak of the War, Captain Strange was a commissioned officer in the 14th Battalion Welsh Regiment (the Swansea Pals). On 3 June 1916 he was awarded the Military Cross for action at Parquissart in France. The citation reads that he displayed conspicuous gallantry when reconnoitering the enemy's position prior to a raid and later commanding a covering party to the raiders. He also displayed great courage when searching for a missing officer under machine gun fire. Both the men with him were wounded, but he brought them both back to safety after two hours under heavy fire. Later he

received the Distinguished Service Order in the Third Battle of Ypres (Passchendaele) for taking over command of the front line and holding it for three days until relieved.

In May 1918 he was taken prisoner at the Battle of Amey Wood and remained in captivity as a POW until December 1918. He lived in Sketty in Swansea after the War and died in the 1960s, being at one time in the 1920s the captain of Clyne Golf Club.



Ac yntan wedi cael ei eni yn Berkhamstead, roedd Capten Strange yn swyddog a chomisïwn yn 14eg Batallion y Gatradd Gymreig (y Swansea Pals). Ar 3 Mehefin 1916 dyfarnwyd y Groes Fihwral iddo am ei gyfranid yn Parquissart yn Ffrainc. Mae'r ddyfynnau yn nodi iddo arddangos dewnder amlyg wrth gasglu gwybodaeth am safon'r gelyn cyn cychwyn ac arwain mistol amddiffyn i'r cychwyn yn ddiweddarach.

Dangosodd ddewnder hefyd pan aeth i chwilio am swyddog ar goll er gwaethaf ymosodiad cryf gan ynnau peirian. Roedd y ddau ddyn gydag ef wedi'u harnafu, ond daeth i'r ddau yn ôl i ddiogelwch ar ôl dwy awr o fod o dan damio trwm. Yn ddiweddarach derbyniodd yr Undd Gwasanaeth Nodedig yn Nhyrdded Ffrwydr Ypres (Passchendaele) am gymryd drws reolaeth ar y llinell faen a'i dal am dri diwrnod nes cael ei ryddhau.

Yn mis Mai 1918 fe'i cymeryd yn garchodur ym Mrwydr Cued Aveluy a'i gadw mewn caidhiwed fel carchodur ddyfod tan fa Rhagfyr 1918. Roedd yn byw yn Sgêb yn Abertawe ar ôl y dyfod tan ei farwolaeth yn y 1960au. Ar un adeg yn y 1920au, fe oedd capten Clwb Golf y Clyn.



He displayed great courage when searching for a missing officer under machine-gun fire. Both the men with him were wounded, but he brought them both in after two hours under heavy fire.
(Military Cross medal citation)

Remembering our Heroes Cofio ein Harwyr



Captain H W Godfrey Jones MC

Hubert Wilson Godfrey Jones grew up at Garth near Pontardawe and enlisted as a volunteer in the Army in the lead-up to the War. He saw action serving in the Welsh Regiment at the ill-fated attempt to launch a second front during the Gallipoli campaign of 1915, being wounded during the amphibious landings at Suvla Bay. For his bravery during this offensive he was awarded the Military Cross.



After recovering from his wounds, he learned to fly at his own expense and gained a secondment to the newly-formed Royal Flying Corps, a precursor of the Royal Air Force. He showed his outstanding bravery for a second time as a Flying Ace in the air battles over the Somme in 1916/17. He was welcomed as a hero by the people of Pontardawe when home on leave in 1917.

In 1918, he transferred to the RAF, serving in India, Egypt and Iraq amongst other places. He made pioneering flights of exploration over the south western Egyptian desert for which he was awarded the Air Force Cross. Godfrey Jones (from 1929, Godfrey Jones Penderel) reached the rank of Group Captain before his death on active service in 1943 at the age of 52.



Tremladdi Hubert Wilson Godfrey Jones ei felyd yng Ngharth ger Pontardawe ac ymestrodd fel gwirfoddolwr yn y fyddin yn y cyfnod a arweiniodd at y rhyfel. Ro'n gwasanaethu gyda'r Gatradd Gymreig yn yr ymgydau anafodus i lansio all ffrynt yn ystod ymgyrch Gallipoli yn 1915 lle cafwdd ei anafu yn ystod y glantadau amffibiaidd ym Mae Suvla. Fe'i gwobrwywyd am ei ddeddfwr yn ystod yr ymosodiad hwn gyda'r Croes Ffilwrol.

Ar ôl gwella o'i glwyfau, dysgodd sut i bedfan ar ei ddwl ei hun a chafodd ei secodddio i'r Corfflu Awyr Brenhinol newydd ei sefydlu, rhagflaenydd i'r Llu Awyr Brenhinol. Dangosodd ei ddeddfwr eithriadol am yr eiddo fel peilot penigamp yn y brwydrau awyr wrchben y Somme yn 1916/17. Fe'i croeswyd fel arwr gan bobl Pontardawe pan ddaeth adref ar seiliant yn 1917.

Yn 1918, trosglwyddodd i'r RAF, gan wasanaethu yn India, yr Aifft ac Iac ymysg lleoedd eraill. Fe wnaeth allddeithian awyr wrthol dros amalech de-orllewin yr Aifft gan ennill Croes y Llu Awyr am wneud hynny. Cyrhaeddodd Godfrey Jones rang Grŵp-Gapten cyn iddo farw ar wasanaeth milwrol yn 1943 ac yntan'n 52 oed.

He was my uncle and a special person. I was very fond of him. He was eccentric and fearless, driving motorbikes, cars and planes at great speed. When he was eventually killed in the Second World War, the family were devastated. His photo still has pride of place in our sitting room. (Mrs Jenny Morris, llwyd y Pri)



Remembering our Heroes Cofio ein Harwyr

John Oliver Watkins CdeG

At the outbreak of the First World War, the Society of Friends (Quakers) decided that there was a need for its members to be able to serve their country in a non-combatant role, and thus the Friends Ambulance Unit was born.

John Oliver Watkins, a Swansea Quaker from Northampton Place, served throughout the First World War in the Friends Ambulance Unit and joined one of three units assigned to support the French Army, carrying sick and wounded French soldiers from the field dressing stations behind the firing line to the evacuation hospitals. He saw service on the Somme, the Marne and Verdun amongst other places and was awarded several honours from the French government, including the Croix de Guerre with silver star.

On the night of 10/11 December 1917, he was cited for his devotion to duty in evacuating wounded men from a massive German gas attack at the furthest extremity of the Western Front near the North Sea coast at Nieuport in Belgium. During this evacuation his ambulance got stuck in a trench and, in order to get the vehicle out, he had to temporarily remove his gas mask. Despite the injuries he received from breathing the poison gas, he continued with his duties to the end of the mission.



Ar ddechrau'r Rhyfel Byd Cyntaf, penderfynodd Cymdeithas y Cyfeillion (y Crynwyr) y dyfio caniatu i'w haelodau wasanaethu en gwlad mewn gwaith amyladdol, ac felly sefydlwyd Uned Ambywlans y Cyfeillion.

Bu John Watkins, Crywyr o Northampton Place yn Abertawe, yn gwasanaethu trwy gydol y Rhyfel Byd Cyntaf yn Uned Ambywlans y Cyfeillion, gan ymuno ag un o'r unedau a ddynodwyd i gefnogi Byddin Ffrainc, i gludo milwyr Ffrengig sill a chwyfedig o orsafodd trin chwyfau maes y gad y tu ôl i'r rheng flaen i'r ysbtyl mudi. Ro'n gwasanaethu yn y Somme, y Marne a Verdun ymhlith manau eraill ac enillodd sawl amlydodd gan lywodraeth Ffrainc, gan gynnwys y Croix de Guerre à seren arfan.

Ar noson 10/11 Rhagfyr 1917, fe'i henwyd am ei ymlyniad wrth ei ddyletswydd yn symud dynion chwyfedig o ymosodiad nwy enllef gan yr Almaenwyr yn mhen pellaf Ffrynt y Gotllewin ger arfordir Môr y Gogledd yn Nieuwpoort, Gwlad Belg. Yn ystod y mudi hwn dallwyd ei ambywlans yn sornud mewn ffis ac, er mwyn rhyddhau'r cerbyd, ro'n rhaid iddo dynnu ei fwgwd nwy dros dro. Er gwaethaf ei anafadau o ganlyniad i anafu'r nwy gwenwynig, aeth ymlaen â'i ddyletswyddau nes gorffen ei daig.

John Watkins s'est toujours fait remarquer son dévouement et son sang froid. (Croix de Guerre: médail citation)



Remembering our Heroes Cofio ein Harwyr

1914-1918

Some things we forgot
to remember

Rhai pethau rydym yn
anghofio eu cofio



The contribution of women Cyfraniad menywod



In 1916, the newly set-up Ministry of Munitions was faced with a shortage of shells and took a number of measures to increase production. One of these was the encouragement of women to replace men in munitions production in either skilled or semi-skilled positions. Taylor and Sons Foundry in Briton Ferry was one of the local enterprises which responded to this need, as seen in the picture here. In 1917 the Women's Land Army was set up to assist with food production.

The celebration of women's contribution to the War effort alongside men began as early as 1916, through photographs, pamphlets and posters.

However, the reality for many was that returning troops expected to be able to return to their pre-war jobs and women stepped aside to allow them to do so. Perhaps less noticed was the expansion of office work for women, which continued after the War as many offices continued to employ larger numbers of women than before.

Yn 1916, roedd y Weinidogaeth Arfan Rhyfel newydd ei sefydlu yn ceisio dygymod â phrinter siellau a chymrodd nifer o fesurau i gynhyrchu mwy obonynt. Un o'r rhain oedd annog menywod i gymryd lle dynion wrth gynhyrchu arfan rhyfel mewn swyddi medrus a lleid fedrus. Roedd Ffawddin Taylor and Sons yn Llanonawel yn un o'r mentrau lleol a ymatebodd i'r angen hwn, fel a wellir yn y llun yma. Yn 1917 sefydlwyd Hydlyn Dir y Menywod i gynorthwyo gyda chynhyrchu bwyd.

Dechreuwyd datlu cyfraniad menywod at ymdech y rhyfel wrth ochr y dynion mwr gyntaf â 1916, trwy ffotograffau, pamffledi a phosteri. Poed bynnag, y gwirionedd i lawer oedd bod milwyr a oedd yn dychwelyd adref yn disgwyl cael mynd yn ôl i'r swyddi a oedd ganddynt cyn y rhyfel a chamodd menywod o'r neillu i adael lldynt woed hynny. Yn cael llai o sylw, efallai, oedd yr ehangiad yng ngwaith swyddfa i fenywod a barodd ar ôl y rhyfel wrth i lawer o swyddfeydd barhau i gyflngi niferoedd mwy o fenywod nag o'r blaen.



Let it be remembered that if women passengers have to pay the same fare as men passengers, then women workers doing men's work [on the Swansea trams] should have the same pay as men workers. (Letter to the Merthyr Pioneer, 27 July 1918)



The contribution of India Cyfraniad India



Sometime in 1916, Private Gordon Jones of Iffrynhyfryd in Swansea sent a postcard to his wife from the Western Front, which is reproduced here. It is a studio portrait of two soldiers from the ranks, one in British Army uniform and the other in the uniform of the British Indian Army.

Private Gordon Jones died at Mametz Wood on 11 July 1916 during the First Battle of the Somme in France. He is buried at Douaumont War Cemetery in Northern France. 102 Indian soldiers are also buried in the same war cemetery, a reminder of the 43,000 soldiers of the British Indian Army who died fighting for the Allies during the First World War.



Rhywbryd ym 1916, anfonodd Prifafat Gordon Jones o Ffrynhyfryd yn Abertawe gerdyn post at ei wraig o Ffryn y Gorllewin, a atgynhychwyd yma. Mae'n ddarlun stiwdio o ddau filwr o'r Ffrangoedd, un yng ngwisg y Fyddin Brydeinig a'r llall yng ngwisg Byddin India Brydeinig.

Bu farw Prifafat Gordon Jones yng Nghoed Mametz ar 11 Gorffennaf 1916 yn ystod Bwydwr Gyntaf y Somme yn Ffrainc. Mae wedi'i gladdu yn Mynwent Rhyd Ddaumont yng ngogledd Ffrainc. Mae 102 o filwyr India wedi'u claddu yn yr un fynwent â Iffrynhyfryd Jones hefyd, yn atgof o'r 43,000 o filwyr Byddin India Brydeinig a fu farw wrth ymladd dros achos y Cynghreiriaid yn y Rhyfel Byd Gyntaf.



If we want to learn the use of arms with the greatest possible despatch, it is our duty to enlist ourselves in the army. (Mohandas Karamchand (Mahatma) Gandhi in his pamphlet 'Appeal for Indistment', 1918)



Belgian refugees Ffoaduriai o wlad Belg



Swansea had a small Belgian community at the outbreak of the War, through its requirement for skilled workers in the heavy industries and its cross-channel trade. From October 1914 to mid-1916, batches of Belgian refugees fleeing from the advancing Germans arrived at Swansea High Street Station, as they did in other towns and cities across the UK. They seem to have been received with hospitality from local people, whose natural generosity was increased by popular stories of horrific German atrocities in Belgium.

The majority of men found employment in the shelter industry in the Lower Swansea Valley, setting eventually in Morriston, Landore, St Thomas and Port Tennant after an initial spell in communal accommodation provided by benefactors such as the Earl of Jersey, who gave the use of Maesteg House in St Thomas. The successful integration of the Belgians into their host community can be seen in the fact that many chose to stay on in Swansea after the end of the War.



Rondd gan Abertawe gymuned fach o Ffolgiaid ar ddechrau'r rhyfel, gan fod angen gweithwyr medrus arni yn y diwydiannau trwm a'i masnach S'r cyfandir. O fis Hydref 1914 i ganol 1916, cyrhaeddodd dyrmeidiaid o Wlad Belg, a oedd yn ffrî rhag yr Almaenwyr guresgynnol, Cnraf Stryd Fawr Abertawe, fel y digwyddodd mewn trefi a dinasoedd eraill ledled y DU. Mae'n debyg yr oeddent yn derbyn lletygwrch gan bolit leol, y cafodd eu haelioni naturiol ei gynyddu gan straeon poblogaidd am erchylytheran a gyllawnwyd gan yr Almaenwyr yng Ngwlad Belg.

Cafodd y rhan fwyaf o ddynion waith yn y diwydiant shelter yng Nghwm Tawe, gan sefydlu yn y pen draw yn Nhreforys, Glandŵr, St Thomas a Phort Tennant ar ôl cyfnod cychwynnol mewn llety cymunedol a ddarparwyd gan gymwynaswyr megis Iarll Jersey, a ganiataodd ddefnyddio Tŷ Maesteg yn St Thomas at y dihen twn. Gellir gweld bod y Belgiaid wedi integreiddio'n llwyddiannus i'r gymuned a oedd wedi'u croessawu gan y ffaith fod llawer ohonynt wedi dewis aros yn Abertawe ar ôl diwedd y rhyfel.

We are very pleased to report that the conduct of the Refugees has been exceedingly good - especially bearing in mind the class from which the majority are drawn. (Report of the Swansea Belgian Refugees Committee, September 1916)



The treatment of conscientious objectors

Sut cafodd gwrthwynebwyr cydwybodol eu trin



Whatever your opinions on the rights and wrongs of conscientious objection, it cannot be denied that conscientious objectors received harsh and sometimes brutal treatment in the First World War. Those 'absolutists' who refused to fight or in any way support the War, often because of strongly-held religious or political convictions, were in some cases sentenced to death but most received punitive prison sentences with hard labour. Forceful propaganda was used to stigmatise those who refused to fight: the shame remained for some families in their communities for many years afterwards.

Harold Beynon was a printworker from Watkin Street in Swansea who refused conscription into the Army. He was refused exemption from military service by the Swansea Military Service Tribunal and the Glamorgan Appeal Tribunal and arrested in January 1918. He was sentenced to six months hard labour and spent time in Whimwood Scrubs in London and Princetown Work Centre Dartmoor. Later he was transferred to a work scheme in Gloucester where he was able to live in lodgings in the town. He developed severe pneumonia there and died on 22 October 1918 having not yet reached his thirtieth birthday. He is buried in the churchyard of St Peter's Cockett, Swansea.



Beth hynnog yw cich barn ar wrthwynebwyr cydwybodol, nid oes modd gwada bod gwrthwynebwyr cydwybodol wedi cael eu trin yn galed ac weithiau'n gneul yn y Rhyfel Byd Cynaf. Mewn rhai achosion, cafodd y 'blainodwyr' wnaeth gwrthod ymladd neu cefnogi'r Rhyfel, yn xmi oberwydd daliadau crefyddol neu wledyddol cryf, o gwbl eu deddfychu i farwolaeth, mewn rhai eraill, cafodd gwrthwynebwyr deddfrydau cosbol o garchars a llafur caled. Roedd propaganda grymus yn cael ei dddefnyddio i diddfrio'r rhai a wrthododd ymladd: roedd y cywilydd yn parhau i ni teuluoedd yn eu cymunedau am lawer o flynyddoedd wedi hynny.

Roedd Harold Beynon yn weithiwr print o Stryd Watkin yn Abertawe a wrthododd ymrestru yn y fyddin. Gwrthododd ei eithrio o wasanaeth milwrol gan Dribwiniys Gwasanaeth Milwrol Abertawe a Thribwiniys Apelo Morgannwg a chafodd ei restio yn mis Ionawr 1918. Fe'i deddfychwyd i chwe mis o lafur caled a threuliodd amser yn Whimwood Scrubs yn Llundain a Chanolfan Waith Princetown, Dartmoor. Yn ddiweddarach cafodd ei drosglwyddo i gynllun gwaith yng Nghaerdyff lle roedd yn gallu byw mewn llety yn y dref. Datblygodd niwmonia difrifol yno a bu farw ar 22 Hydref 1918. Fe'i claddwyd yn mynwent Eglwys San Pedr yn y Cockett, Abertawe.



Member of Tribunal: Supposing a German came into your house and tried to kill your sister. Wouldn't you try and stop him?
 Applicant: I should try in some way
 Member of Tribunal: Supposing you had a stick in your hand, would you use it?
 Applicant: No
 (Pontardawe District Military Service Tribunal, as reported in 'Llais Llafor', 18 March 1916)



The aftermath of war

Goblygiadau'r rhyfel



We sometimes forget the hardships of the families left behind and the immediacy of their grief in the years after the Armistice in 1918. The sadness of their loss can be read between the lines in the letters sent to Town Clerks as they collected names to be inscribed on war memorials across the country.

Thomas Lewis Jones of Heol Las, Llansamlet was killed in France in the last weeks of the War, leaving behind his fiancée carrying their yet unborn son. Thomas' fiancée never married and because the child was born out of wedlock she brought up their son without any state help. When the boy reached the age of 21 in 1939, he received from his grandmother all the 6d a week War Pension payments made to her in recompense for the loss of her son.



Weithiau rydym yn anghoŵn calcu a galar enbyd y teuluoedd a adawyd ar ôl yn y blynyddoedd wedi'r Cadoediad ym 1918. Gellir cael syniad o'n tristwch am eu colled trwy ddarllen rhwyg y llinellau yn y llythyrau a anfonwyd at glencod treu wrth iddynt gaegu'r enwau i'w harysgrifio ar gofodion rhyfel ledled y wlad.

Cafodd Thomas Lewis Jones o Heol Las, Llansamlet ei fald yn Ffrainc yn ystod wythnosau olaf y rhyfel, gan adael ei ddwywedi feichiog ar ôl. Ni phariodd dywedi Thomas erioed a chan mai plentyn anghyfreithlon oedd eu mab, roedd rhaid iddi ei fagu heb unrhyw gymorth gan y wladwriaeth. Pan gythaeddodd y bachgen 21 oed ym 1939, derbyniodd gan ei fam-gu yr holl daliadau Pensiwn Rhyfel o 6d yr wythnos a dalwyd iddi am gollt ei mab.



Sadly I know very little about him as a person due to the family seldom mentioning him in my presence - possibly because I was the youngest of all his nieces and nephews - yet in truth his story - though brief - is both tragic and heart-warming. (Mrs Eiriona Harris-Phillips on her uncle, Thomas Lewis Jones)



The aftermath of war Goblygiadau'r rhyfel



For many recent migrants to South Wales, the aftermath of the First World War had profound effect on their countries of origin. In the wake of the collapse of several of the empires which had entered into the War, new nation states were either created or else re-emerged onto the political map of Europe - such as Latvia and Poland in the north east of Europe.

For the people of the Middle East, a secret deal in May 1916 between Britain and France with the assent of Russia led after the War to the division of this part of what was

then the Ottoman Empire into two spheres of influence. The Sykes-Picot Agreement - negotiated by the French diplomat François Georges-Picot and the British diplomat Sir Mark Sykes - defined the two powers' proposed spheres of influence and control in the Middle East should they succeed in defeating the Turks. The agreement is seen by many as a turning point in Arab-Western relations and led to the creation of the territories of Lebanon and Syria which came under French control and Jordan, Iraq and Palestine which came under British control.

A group which missed out in this crucial period of territorial division by the great powers was the Kurdish people, who ended up spread across four states (Turkey, Syria, Iraq and Iran). At around 40 million people, they are sometimes described as the largest stateless nation in the world. The consequences of this have resonances to the present day: successive waves of government persecution of Kurds brought waves of refugees to the West from the 1960s onwards, including to Swansea and Neath Port Talbot which now has a Kurdish community numbering around 500.

I lawer o fudwyr diweddar i Dde Cymru, cafodd y Rhyfel Byd Cyntaf oblygiadau sylweddol ar eu gwledydd brodorol. Yn sgil cwmpwr nifer o'r ymerodraethau a oedd wedi dechrau'r rhyfel, cafodd cenedl-wladwriaethau newydd eu creu neu ailymddangosodd rhai eraill ar fap gwledyddol Ewrop - megis Latvia a Gwlad Pwyl yng ngogledd-ddwyrain Ewrop.

I bobl y Dwyrain Canol, arweiniodd cytundeb ddiogel ym mis Mai 1916 rhwng Prydain a Ffrainc, gylch chymrcadwriaeth Rwsia, at rannu'r Ymerodraeth Otomanol yn ddau faes dylanwadol ar ôl y rhyfel.

Diffiniodd Cytundeb Sykes-Picot - a gyd-drafodwyd gan y diplomydd Ffrangeg François Georges-Picot a'r diplomydd Prydeinig Syr Mark Sykes - feysydd dylanwadol a rheolaeth arfaethedig y ddau bŵer yn y Dwyrain Canol petaent yn llwyddo i drechu'r Tyrciaid. Ystyrir yn eang bod y cytundeb yn drobwyt mewn perthnasoedd rhwng y byd Arabaidd a'r Godlewin a thrwy hyn crëwyd tiriogaethau Libanus a Syria a ddaeth dan reolaeth Ffrainc a Gwlad Iorrdonen, Irac a Phalestina a ddaeth dan reolaeth Prydain.

Un grŵp a gollodd gyfe yn y cyfnod hanfodol o rannu tiriogaethau gan y gwahanu mawr oedd y Cwrdaid, a gafodd eu gwaogaru ar draws pedair gwladwriaeth (Twrki, Syria, Irac ac Iran). Gyda phoblogaeth o ryw 40 miliwn, maent weithiau'n cael eu disgrifio fel cenedl fwyaf y byd heb wlad. Teimlir goblygiadau hyn hyd heddiw: mae orledigweth gyson gan lywodraethau o'r Cwrdaid wedi arwain at donnoo o ffowdariaid yn heidio i'r Godlewin ers y 1960au, gan gynnwys i Abertawe a Chastell-ogddi Port Talbot lle mae tua 500 o Gwrdaid bellach yn byw.

To hear our own team sing our anthem, wear our uniform with the flag on it and everything... it's every Kurd's dream. (Mubammed Askari on the 2012 VIVA World Cup tournament held in Eritri)

