

## THE ST. DOGMAELS WAR DIARIES: VOL. 1: FIRST WORLD WAR 1914-18.

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### Introduction.

It would be easy to imagine that the people of a small rural community on the fringes of West Wales would have felt rather removed from the global events of 1914-18, sending a few men to the front and having a token memorial to those who failed to return. In reality this is a far from accurate picture of the way the First World War affected the community of St. Dogmaels. Both at home and abroad, St. Dogmaels, in its' own small way, did vital service to the war effort, was represented at most of the major battles, and has its' own modest place in the turbulent history of those frightening days when the world seemed to have lost all reason and logic.

This booklet not only touches briefly on the stories of the men of St. Dogmaels who were lost in the service of their country, but also on how the war affected the community of St. Dogmaels and its' people, and it is to that generation who lived through those awful times that this humble work is respectfully and affectionately dedicated.

## 1914 – 'KEEP THE HOME FIRES BURNING'

On 30 July 1914 the coastguards at St. Dogmaels left for their mobilising stations.

On 2 August 1914 the former Royal Naval Reserve volunteers, several of whom were from St. Dogmaels, left for training at Devonport to enrol as Territorials. The '*Cardigan & Tivy-Side Advertiser*' reported their departure in the following terms five days later:

*"...The first batch to be called up were the Royal Naval Reserve, of which body there are a large number of local members. On Sunday morning the instructions came for the immediate mobilisation of the men throughout this district. The expeditious manner in which the call was answered raises feelings of pride in the hearts of all Cardigan. The Customs Office was besieged throughout the day with men signing on for service. Married men leaving behind them their wives and children, single men leaving mother and father, all flocked in grave eyed and determined that the Old Country should not be beaten if they could help. Many homes were sad on Sunday at the thought of the farewells which had to be said on the morrow, but it was a sorrow mixed up with that indefinable feeling of patriotic buoyancy.*

*Preparations proceeded apace on Sunday night, and on Monday morning the men – about 60 in number – left by the 7.30 train en route for their ships at Devonport. Crowds gathered in the vicinity of the station and enthusiastically cheered the men as they en-trained. "Good-bye; God bless you!" were the words echoing in their ears as they passed out of the old town. The men hailed from Cardigan, St. Dogmaels, Aberporth,, etc..."*

On 3 August 1914 the Cardigan Territorials, who were in camp at Portmadoc, were awoken at 4 a. m. and were instructed to strike camp and head homewards. 'C' Company of the Fourth Welsh Territorials, to use their official name, headed for home, boarding a train at noon. They sent a telegram to notify Cardigan officials that they would arrive home that evening under the command of Lieutenant I. J. R. Jones. The railway station at Cardigan was besieged by large crowds, and at 10 o'clock that evening the train steamed up to the platform. There were loud cheers as the men, preceded by the Gwaen-cae-garwen Band, marched off to their headquarters.

On 4 August 1914 the Cardigan Territorials marched to Cardigan Railway Station where a large cheering crowd bid them "Good-bye" as they departed for five weeks of training at Dale, Pembrokeshire. At 11 o'clock that evening Britain officially declared war on Germany and the Central Allies.

It is interesting to note that a St. Dogmaels man witnessed the first British naval shots fired in the war. The German ferry boat '*Konigin Luise*' had been converted into a mine-layer, painted in the colours of the Great Eastern Railway Company ferry that plied between Harwich and the Hook of Holland. On the first day of the war, 4 August, she was spotted laying mines intended to sink shipping heading towards the Thames. At 10. 25 in the morning of 5 August, H. M. S. *Amphion* and the *Lance* and *Landrail* pursued and fired upon her, and finally sank her at 12.22. Of the 100 crew, 46 were rescued by the '*Amphion*'. The '*Konigin Luise*' was the first German naval loss of the war. The '*Cardigan & Tivy-Side Advertiser*' reported the St. Dogmaels man's story on 14 August that year:

*"...SINKING OF THE MINE LAYER. ST. DOGMAELS MAN'S EXPERIENCE.*

*The following graphic account of the sinking of the German mine-layer "Konigin Luise" is taken from the 'Cambria Daily Leader'. The Chief Mate mentioned is Mr. W. Granville Thomas, youngest son of Mrs. Thomas, Sloop-terrace, St. Dogmaels.*

*To have been held up to forty-one hours in the Kiel Canal in suspense as to whether they would be allowed to resume their journey, and then to have been the only persons except the combatants themselves to witness at close quarters the sinking of the German mine-layer 'Konigin-Luise', has been the thrilling experience of the crew of the S. S. 'Bradford City', of Bideford, which came into the King's Dock, Swansea, this morning.*

*To a 'Leader' reporter members of the crew told graphic stories of the engagement, of the horrors of naval warfare even on so small a scale, and of the hope that they might never see anything of the kind again.*

*The Bradford City has come from Ijo Roytta, in Russian Finland, with a cargo of some thousands of tons of pit-props, and her crew of about 26 all told, including three Germans and an Austrian, signed on at Stettin. The skipper is Captain Hurrell, of Plympton, the chief mate, Mr. Thomas, hails from St. Dogmaels, Cardigan, and the chief engineer, Mr. Williams, is a Cardiff man.*

*The two latter told the 'Leader' man the story of their adventurous voyage. Neither have been able to sleep soundly since witnessing the naval engagement, and the chief mate has particular reason to remember this anniversary of his birthday.*

*They were, they said, in the Kiel Canal forty-one hours and there were doubts as to whether they would be allowed to leave. The officials could give them no satisfaction on this point, but told them that they should have six hours' notice if they could go. Eventually the Customs made a search and gave them their permit. They had an escort of men with loaded revolvers, and were told that if they took any photographs of the measures adopted for defence they would be shot immediately.*

*They left Kiel on Saturday night about five o'clock – not many hours before the declaration of the war – and considered themselves lucky. Coming to the naval engagement in the Baltic, they said, relating portions alternately:*

*“We first heard firing just about 11 o'clock on Wednesday; we could not make out what it was, but could see the smoke. Then gradually we saw two torpedo boats attacking what was apparently a merchant vessel. She was running away; they were manoeuvring. Then she met a whole flotilla of torpedo boats – about twenty – and when she tried to get away they fired on her. She turned back, and so was compelled to fight the other two. They started attacking her seriously.”*

*“We were right in the thick of it, for she was only half a mile from us, and they were at times quite close to us, firing across our bows.”*

*“The first thing to go were the funnels; they were broken away. Then a lot of damage was done about the hull. The rudder and the stern were broken away. Steam burst out on the bridge, which the next minute was in a mass of flames. The blow amidships made her heel over, and we could see the men climbing over the rails on to the side of the ship. Gradually she went down, and they with her. The torpedo boats made a terrible mess of her.”*

*Questioned as to the statement that four shots from the torpedo boats completed the destruction they said that on the contrary the engagement lasted three hours, and was an awful affair. At first they thought they were German boats attacking an English ship, and they believed the latter's funnels were disguised. They were then in fear themselves. They ran right across where the mines were, and were right in the thick of it – in fact, could not have been nearer without getting damaged themselves.*

*Later they came across six British cruisers in waiting, with guns out.*

*Their course was diverted at Dover, and they did not know the actual meaning of what they saw in the Baltic until they got to the Mumbles...”*

Although W. Granville Thomas witnessed this historic event, another witness from St. Dogmaels was to have a greater significance in the history of the start of the war. His name was David Craig of the Watch House near the 'Ferry Inn', Glanteifon, St. Dogmaels.

H. M. S. 'Amphion' had been launched at Pembroke Dock in 1911. She led the Third Destroyer Flotilla out of Harwich, protecting the English Channel. As already noted, she had fired on the 'Konigin Luise' and had afterwards picked up her survivors on 5 August. On 6 August 1914, at about 6.30 in the morning, H. M. S. 'Amphion' was on her way back to Harwich when she struck a mine in the English Channel that had been laid by the 'Konigin Luise'. The bridge was enveloped in flames, and the captain was incapacitated. Many of those on the bridge were badly burnt, and all but one member of the fore-castle gun crews were killed. Many of the crew were having breakfast in the forward mess-decks and were trapped there. The captain eventually recovered and had the engines stopped. At about 7.03, just after the last rescue boat had taken off survivors, the 'Amphion' struck another mine and sank about fifteen minutes later, with the loss of 150 crew, including David Craig of Watch House, St. Dogmaels. Also lost were 18 of the rescued German crew of the 'Konigin Luise'. The crew bore the dubious distinction of being the first British casualties of the First World War.

On 7 August 1914 the first members of the British Expeditionary Force began landing in France. The first group completed their landings on 16 August. They included Fitter Titus Lodwig of Glanpwillafon, St. Dogmaels.

In the first week of the war a German sailing ship was captured by a British destroyer in Cardigan Bay. The destroyer took the captured vessel in tow, until transferring her to the care of the Cardigan steamer S. S. *St. Tudwal*, who towed her to Cardigan, where she was anchored at the Mercantile Quay, Bridge End.

On 14 August 1914 the film called 'Cardigan Territorials' was shown at the 'Pavilion' cinema, Cardigan. It showed members of 'C' Company being trained at Dale camp, including some St. Dogmaels men.

By 21 August 1914 the following St. Dogmaels men were serving in the Royal Naval Reserve:

Dan Davies, No. 8 Tivy Terrace, Bridge End, Cardigan  
Alphonso Davies, Abbey Cottage, Longdown Bank  
Thomas Davies, Cwmdegwel  
David George Davies, Singrug  
John Evans, Vicarage Terrace  
William Facey, late Forest House, David Street  
Benjamin Jones, Bwlchymwtshwr  
John Jones, David Street  
Gomer Lloyd, David Street  
David George Stephens, Bancshonsaer  
Washington Thomas, Cwmdegwel  
Benjamin Evans, Bryntirion  
Thomas Morris, Glanteifon  
Griffith John Owen, Brynteg  
J. L. Stephens, Alltfach  
Sidney G. Thomas, No. 3 Union Terrace

On 23 August 1914 the Battle of Mons was fought. Although heavily outnumbered, the efficiency of the British in rapid firing and trench digging saw them perform well in their first engagement of the war. The German attack was badly-co-ordinated, and the British held the position comfortably for 24 hours. On 24 August the British retreat began, and went on for about two weeks. There were heavier losses on the British side during the retreat from Mons than there were in the battle itself. Fitter Titus Lodwig of Glanpwllafon, St. Dogmaels, who had been in the first batch of the British Expeditionary Force, was slightly wounded at Mons.

By 28 August 1914 the following St. Dogmaels men were amongst the Cardigan Territorials at Dale:

Lance-Corporal D. T. Gibbon, Castle Street, Bridge End, Cardigan  
Private F. Davies, Eagle Inn, Castle Street, Bridge End, Cardigan  
Private D. O. Jones, Tivy Terrace, Bridge End, Cardigan  
Private T. J. Richards, Alltfach  
Private B. Williams, Rose Lynn  
Private D. M. Davies, Old Parkypratt

By the end of August 1914 a large number of St. Dogmaels people had contributed to the Prince of Wales National Relief Fund. Collectors in the parish included Hubert Williams; John Davies; Ben Gwynne; William Lewis; Captain George Lewis; and Captain T. B. Jones.

On 1 September 1914 Soissons was bombarded and then occupied by the Germans. Titus Lodwig, fitter, of Glanpwllafon, St. Dogmaels, was present and survived and escaped unharmed. At Villers-Cotterets on the same day the British managed to halt the German advance.

On 6 September 1914 began a remarkable adventure which involved Mr. J. Nicholas of St. Dogmaels, the Chief Engineer aboard the 10,000 ton Liverpool oil tanker S. S. "Elsinore." The vessel was on its maiden voyage to San Francisco when the account, written by Asa J Evans, begins:

*"...It was whilst on voyage from Corinto (Nicaragua) to San Suis (California) that the unexpected happened. We left Corinto on the Sixth of September and everything went on smoothly until we got to the Gulf of California (Mexico). We were aroused on the morning of September 11 at 2.15 by a shell fired across our bows, and a powerful searchlight playing on our ship. This was a warning to stop our engines, which we did immediately. At this time none of us knew whether we were stopped by a friend or by the enemy, but we had not long to wait before we realised that it was indeed the enemy. About half an hour after the first shot was fired we were boarded by a crew of two officers and ten men with loaded rifles. They proceeded to the saloon to examine the ship's papers. After ascertaining that we sailed under the British Ensign, and having made a search through our engine room and bunkers for oil and coals, they left us. Before leaving we were told to get our boats ready, with as little clothing as each of us could carry in our handbags, as they were going to set us adrift in our own boats when they got to a convenient place to sink our ship. At this time we were in Lat. 21. 41 Long. 107.5, about sixty miles off the mainland. They also gave us instructions to turn our ship round and head back the same way as we had come, and to take all orders by signal from the "Liepzig." About 11 a. m. we sighted another steamer on the horizon making towards us. We all met at noon, and then got orders to stop. This steamer turned out to be another German – the transport "Marie", carrying coal for the "Liepzig." We were again boarded, this time by seven officers and ten men, all armed to the eyes. They then gave us orders to take to*

*our boats and pull for and go aboard the Marie. When we got on board we found that we were going to be closely watched and guarded. They had already posted a guard there, consisting of one officer, a signalman, and nine marines, fully armed, and a good watch was kept over us day and night.*

*It was from here that we witnessed the sinking of the good ship "Elsinore". In all it took twelve explosive shells to do the dastardly work, and the last we saw of our good old ship was about 4 p. m.; she was then a mass of flames and stately as ever, slowly sinking on an even keel. We then proceeded for Galapagos Islands aboard the Marie and accompanied by the Liepzig. On September 18 we arrived at Albermarle (the chief of the Islands) and bunkered the Liepzig. On September 19 we left Albermarle for Hood Island, where we arrived on Twentieth, leaving at 2.30 a. m. on the 22 for St. Christobel Island, where we were put ashore at 8 a. m. on the same day and abandoned to our fate – to find our way back to the mainland (a distance of about 600 miles) as best we could. The natives of this island speak Spanish only and are employed in the making of sugar, the sugar cane being cultivated. Coffee is also grown, and there is plenty of fruit on the island. The houses are simply wooden shanties raised about four feet above the ground and supported by wooden stakes. To sleep in a bed is an unknown luxury, practically all sleeping on wooden floors; a few sleep in hammocks. Our first night's experience on the floor, with our coats for pillows and rat solos and duets for entertainment, will not be forgotten. After the second night on the floor our bones began to ache, so we put our heads together to try and devise something softer. Some of us found a few old sacks which we tied together and converted into hammocks, This contrivance was a God-send after the hard boards. During the whole time we remained on the Island we lived fairly well. There are cattle, horses, wild donkeys and cats.*

*On September 24, two days after landing, our captain and half the crew (we were 40 all told) sailed for the mainland in a sloop owned by the Governor of the Islands. As this boat was not capable of carrying any more men, the remainder of us had to stay behind and take our chance when another boat called. As it turned out we had three weeks to wait before the happy day for our departure dawned. When the day did come we shed no tears. On October 25 we left the Island on a 20 ton sloop, and it was a picnic with a vengeance. The cargo consisted of 14 tons of sugar; she carried provisions and water for 13 days. There were 23 hands including crew, and hardly room to swing a cat round. The Elsinore's crew slept in the hold on top of the sugar bags, whilst the remaining officers and engineers slept in what they called the cabin, fitted out with two shelves or bunks 8ft by 2 ft. The two officers shared one bunk and the fourth engineer and I the other. We are both built on rather fine lines, otherwise we should have fared badly.*

*It took us 13 days to get across to Guayaquil (Ecuador). Hard boards again for 13 days, and our diet consisted of one ounce of bread, coffee, rice and beans at 11 a. m. for breakfast, and beans and rice for dinner and tea (combined) at 5 o'clock...Neither of us had a wash or a shave from the time we left the Island till we got to the mainland as we could not afford the water. You should see the sight we presented. Robinson Crusoe was not in it!*

*On October 25 we arrived at Guayaquil and saw the British Consul. We were put on board the R. M. S. Ecuador, whose commander is an old acquaintance whom I had not seen for over 16 years – Captain W. H. Morgan, St. Dogmaels – bound for Panama. Mr. Nicholas, two apprentices and I proceed to San Francisco to join the S. S. Cordelia, another of the company's boats; the rest of the crew go back to England..."*

In early September 1914 the Cardigan Territorials moved from Dale Camp to another camp at Scoveston, near Angle, Pembrokeshire. They remained here for a period before being moved to Biggleswade in Bedfordshire.

On 9 September 1914 a parish meeting was held at St. Dogmaels Council School, presided over by Mr. T. Joseph, the purpose being the making of arrangements for collecting subscriptions towards the War Distress Fund. It was agreed to form a committee of members drawn equally from the various places of worship in the district. The following were elected:-

Revs. J. D. Hughes; E. J. Lloyd; J. Myfenydd Morgan; D. Richards; and W. H. Jones; Messrs. E. Gwynne; J. Emrys Thomas; T. Joseph; J. James; D. Thomas; Captain Benjamin; D. T. Volk; Captain J. Jones; T. Davies (Esgyrn); W. James (Penrhynbach); G. P. Biddyr (Glanymor); J. Evans(Cippynfach),and D. Lewis (Cippynfawr).

Captain Lloyd made a spirited appeal at the meeting, resulting in the collection of nearly £10 at once in guineas and half-guineas. The committee agreed to meet the following Saturday to make arrangements for collections.

On 14 September 1914 the Germans halted their retreat by the Aisne. From 14-28 September 1914 the First Battle of the Aisne was fought. Trench warfare was used for the first time. Fitter Titus Lodwig of Glanpwllafon, St. Dogmaels, was there.

On 21 September 1914 Chief Officer W. J. Baker of St. Dogmaels, the son-in-law of Captain W. Lloyd of the Post Office, was serving aboard the S. S. "Cornish City", when he found himself embroiled in the war at first hand. He wrote:

*“...We sailed from Barry on September 4. On September 21, when in lat. 2.30 south 32.30 west, at 2 p. m., we were signalled to stop immediately by the German cruiser “Karlsruhe”, who sent a boat to our ship with two officers and an armed crew. They came alongside, and demanded the ship's papers. The German officers examined them, and afterwards informed us that we should have an hour's grace to get all our necessary clothing and belongings together. The “Karlsruhe” had up till this time captured thirteen ships in the South Atlantic. She was accompanied by the transports “Crofeld” (Bremen-Lloyd) and the “Rio Negro” (Hamburg-South Amerika line). Our crew were immediately put aboard the “Rio Negro”, where they remained for three weeks. Whilst on board this boat we were all treated in a most exemplary manner, and all possible kindness and courtesy were extended to us. The officers of the “Rio Negro” expressed great regret at the war. We were landed by the Norddentasher-Lloyd liner “Crefeld” at Tenriffe on October 22, and arrived at Liverpool on November 3...”*

By 25 September 1914 the St. Dogmaels working party of the Red Cross Society had prepared a parcel containing 13 helpless case shirts, 6 night shirts, 3 pyjama shirts and 6 pairs of socks. The previous week another large parcel of garments had been sent off. The working group were also making garments for local women and children and proposed making garments for local sailors in the Navy.

On 3 October 1914 a St. Dogmaels lady returned from Germany, and the 'Cardigan & Tivy-Side Advertiser' reported her experiences the following week:

*“...BACK FROM GERMANY. ST. DOGMAELS LADY RELATES HER EXPERIENCES.*

#### *INFORMING INTERVIEW.*

*The daughter of Mr. E. Evans, headmaster of the Council School, St. Dogmaels, returned last Saturday from Germany, where she had been since July 30, having left Weimer, a town in the centre of Germany, near Liepzig, on the previous Tuesday, and travelling through Holland and crossing from Flushing to Folkestone, arriving in London on the Thursday night.*

*In a chat with our representative, Miss Evans said that she had been decently treated all through, the only anxiety being the suspense of waiting to be allowed to go home. Everything was in the hands of the military, and Miss Evans had her boxes packed for six weeks, and was promised leave to cross to England, before she finally was able to travel.*

*The American Consul's efforts for English people's comforts was spoken of highly by Miss Evans, and it was through the Consulate's good offices that she and many more were at last allowed to go home.*

*Speaking of the declaration of war, Miss Evans said that the people seemed to go mad with the news. Up to the very moment of the declaration, the Germans were sanguine that England would keep clear of the quarrel.*

*Immediately war broke out, the English people and all foreigners were required to register, although this formality has to be gone through by everybody on landing. They were then told that it would be better for them not to be seen on the streets, although they were not bound to stay indoors.*

*Speaking of the excitement of the people, Miss Evans said that at the beginning of the war, the Germans in Weimer got “spyitis” badly, and the crowds followed, and in some cases badly mauled suspicious strangers. Russians especially came in for a full share of the fury of the mob, and several were shot. English dare not be spoken on the streets, and the foreign consuls have now advised all foreigners to leave the country.*

*The opinion of the German people of the war, said Miss Evans, is that Germany is in the right, and is bound to win. A French lady prophesied some years ago that a great war would take place in 1916, and that one nation would rule the whole world. The people thoroughly believe that Germany is the favoured nation. England is thought of as the arch-enemy.*

*As to what is going on in England, the Germans seem to hold peculiar views. It is stated that Lord Kitchener's appeal for recruits has signally failed, and that the people write on the pavements “We don't want war.” The newspapers in Germany are full of the news of victory to German arms, and any reverses are given small space indeed. The Crown Prince is the hero of the hour.*

*Miss Evans speaks of the marvellous enthusiasm of the people for the war, old men of 70 weeping for a chance to go to the front, and even boys of 16 or 17 offering their services. The women and even children are taking their part, and everywhere is evidenced the wish and the will to do anything to help. In this aspect, in any case, we can take a lesson, even from Germany.*

*Touching on the stories of atrocities, Miss Evans said that the Germans say that the Belgians are to blame; that German soldiers have had their hands cut off by Belgians; that the English are throwing Germans in England into the Thames, and that the Russians are hewing the people down in the streets.*

*Regarding food, Miss Evans said there seemed to be a plentiful supply, but no foreign produce such as bananas, oranges etc. is to be seen. Prices are a little above the normal.*

*The Germans are sanguine that they will soon be in London, as is shown by a conversation which Miss Evans had with a German soldier who was leaving the town for the East. "Good-bye," he said, "I am going to Russia now, and afterwards to London." A platform inspector at a station said that he would probably meet Miss Evans in London, as he had already offered his services to take charge of the line there!*

*Miss Evans was amongst the last of the English people to leave Weimar, and needless to say, she is glad to be home again. She is none the worse for her experience..."*

On 12 October 1914 H. M. Vaughan of Plas Llangoedmor, addressed a recruitment meeting at the Pavilion, Cardigan. The men who volunteered that day, including Garfield Francis of Mount Pleasant, St. Dogmaels, left Cardigan on 19 October, and were met at Cardiff Railway Station by Company Sergeant Major W. Bickerton, who conducted them to their barracks. Their company was the No. 1 Depot Company Welsh Regiment. On 22 October they left at 5 o'clock in the morning for Tidworth, where they joined the Ninth Battalion, Welsh Regiment.

In a sermon delivered at a harvest festival in Dinas Cross in late October 1914, Rev. J. Myfenydd Morgan, the Vicar of St. Dogmaels, Monington and Llantood had made a reference to the Kaiser. He said that in St. Paul's Epistle to the Ephesians the devil is referred to as "the prince of the power of the air", but that now his Satanic Majesty seemed to have exchanged places with the Kaiser of Germany, who sends his Zeppelins up to the air and drops down his bombs to destroy human life and property. The former "prince of the power of the air" did not do that sort of thing, so, by the Reverend gentleman's reckoning, the Kaiser seemed to be a worse fellow than the devil himself!

By the end of October 1914 around 120 substantial garments had been made in St. Dogmaels, chiefly for the Red Cross, but also for the Navy and for wives and children of service-men. Generous contributions of money had been received and others had assisted with cutting out and making up or other valuable use of their time and effort. The village children had been dropping the pennies they usually spent on sweets into the collecting boxes, or else knitting socks and mittens for the sailors. Miss Thomas of the Villa, High Street, and Miss Jones of Marine Villa, Glanteifon, were dealing with contributions.

On 6 November 1914 Private John Evan Jones of St. Dogmaels died of wounds aged 28.

On 7 November 1914 a British steamer came into the bay and landed a party on the St. Dogmaels side. The men proceeded to Penrhyn Castle in order to question the coastguards regarding the whereabouts of a foreign mine-layer which was alleged to have been in the vicinity. There were no coastguards at Penrhyn Castle as they were all on service, and the woman and child who were the only occupants of the property were unable to offer any useful information. The steamer remained in the bay until the following morning. When news of this reached the village, it had some effect upon the local fishermen, who, rather than seeing the war as something somewhat distant, now began to be more vigilant, fearing the presence of mines in the local waters and enemy vessels around the coastline.

The children of St. Dogmaels Council School held a "Pound Day", when they went from door to door around the village seeking contributions for the soldiers and sailors at the front. They sent to Haverfordwest Infirmary two boxes of groceries, a small crate of home-made jam and three sacks of potatoes. The matron responded with the following letter:

*"...The Infirmary, Haverfordwest, Nov. 9 1914*

*My dear Children,*

*I am sending you a little letter to thank you for all your good gifts to us for our Pound Day. They were more than I expected, and I do think you have all worked very hard to help us. There have been so many things to give to, I did not expect such a splendid response. We have some sick soldiers here (not wounded), and you can all say you have helped to get them better by your gifts of groceries, money, etc. The jam tasted very good and arrived in a good condition. Thanking you once more, I remain,*

*Yours Faithfully  
C. Lidgwick, Matron..."*

By 13 November 1914 the St. Dogmaels residents who were sympathetic to the Belgian refugees, had passed on gifts to the refugees staying at Cardigan via Miss Lewis of Argo Villa.

On 20 November it was noted that recent recruits to 'C' (Cardigan) Company of the Welsh Regiment, stationed at Carmarthen, included the following St. Dogmaels men:

Garfield Francis

John Jenkins

John Stephens

John Picton Jenkins

Also hailing from St. Dogmaels and in training with the unit at Carmarthen were:

Thomas James Bowen

Willie Thomas

Marsden Davies

Benjamin James

Thomas John Morris

On 2 December 1914 a Red Cross Society Social was held at the St. Dogmaels Council School. Mr. Emrys Thomas arranged a music entertainment, which was performed by Mr. Tom John; Miss M. Roberts; Miss A. M. Davies; Mr. Emrys Thomas; Miss Polly Davies (recitation); Miss C. Lewis; Miss M. C. Rees; Mr. J. R. Davies; Mr. D. O. Richards; and Mr. Percy Mathias (encored). Rev. J. Myfenydd Morgan took the chair for the evening. Following the entertainments tea and refreshments were provided, and there were speeches by Rev. J. Myfenydd Morgan; Rev. D. Richards; Mr. Evans and Captain Lloyd. A number of stalls and side-shows assisted with the fund-raising, which totalled £10. The children had collected a further £1. 6s. 2d., and had been producing a large amount of woolly garments. As a thank-you to them, a special children's social was held two days later.

On 8 December 1914 the Battle of the Falkland Islands was fought. The British Royal Navy destroyed a German squadron. David Lawrence Jenkins of No. 3 Castle Street, Bridge End, Cardigan, was on board one of the British vessels – H. M. S. *Europa*.

On 29 December 1914 a British squadron was active off the coast of Belgium, including H. M. S. *Majestic*, with a number of local men aboard.

During the year 1914 David Clifford Jones, the son of Captain Thomas Biddyr Jones and Anne Jones of Glantivy, St. Dogmaels, joined the Royal Army Medical Corps. He had formerly been apprenticed to Cardigan chemist Howell Morgan. He served in Salonika for more than three years without once returning home.

## 1915 - "PACK UP YOUR TROUBLES IN YOUR OLD KIT BAG."

On 3 February 1915 a concert was given in St. Dogmaels in aid of the Red Cross Society. By March, these events were being held on a weekly basis.

On 5 February 1915 the 'Cardigan & Tivy-Side Advertiser' included the following article:

*"...CARDIGAN MAN'S EXPERIENCES.*

*CAME THROUGH MONS, SOISSONS, AND THE AISNE UNSCATHED.*

*Private Titus Lodwick of the Mechanical Transport (Fitters) Royal Engineers, a native of Cardigan, but latterly of Cardiff, has just been home on a visit to his parents, who reside at Glanpwwllafon, after having some thrilling experiences at the front.*

*Private Lodwick was brought up in the town, and prior to his departure worked at Messrs. W. James & Sons (Gwalia), Mr. T. M. Daniel's, and Mr. S. T. Jones', and was at one time chauffeur to Mr. D. Davies, solicitor.*

*He had served his time in the Army, and was called up as a reservist on August 6. He was sent to France with the first batch of the Expeditionary Force. He took part in the great battles at Mons, Soissons and the Aisne, and came through without a scratch. He suffered, however, from frost-bite on the toe and hands, and spent some time at the Base Hospital at Boulogne, afterwards returning to the front. He was given leave on January 22, and left with 59 others, landing at Folkestone on the Sunday, where they had a great welcome. The leave extended until Saturday last, and Private Lodwick hoped to be back within sound of the guns on the following Monday.*

*Seen by our representative on Thursday of last week, Private Lodwick showed natural reticence in speaking of his experiences. He said that he could never explain his feelings on being under fire for the first time, and id not want to wither. It was terrible.*

*He talked of the retreat from Mons, and said there were too few Britishers there, they having had no time to prepare, and the German artillery being superior to our own. But this had now been remedied. He would not like to see such a thing again. A good many of his friends had been killed, but by good luck he had escaped without a scratch. The incessant firing of the big guns had shattered his nerves, and he experienced great difficulty in sleeping. This was the chief discomfort felt by the soldiers. At the first, life in the trenches was very hard, especially when the snow fell and the soldiers were up to their knees in snow. The downfall was succeeded by a heavy frost, which made "Tommy's" lot a deal harder. That too was now altered and life was made more pleasant. During the retreat from Mons Private Lodwick, who was engaged in setting the mines for blowing up bridges to check the advancing Germans, was for days without food or sleep. On the morning he left for home the company had many narrow escapes, six shells dropping about 500 yards away from them. During Christmas Day a kind of truce was observed between the British and German soldiers in the trenches, and they were chatty one with the other. Not a shot was fired until 12 o'clock at night.*

*Talking about the way the "Tommys" went in and out of the trenches, Private Lodwick said they went into the firing line like a lot of Welsh colliers, singing, whistling and laughing, and as happy as sandboys, and when relief came they returned in the same spirit. No-one slept much, and off duty time was spent in playing friendly games of cards, singing comic songs, and playing the mouth organ, which instrument seemed very much in demand.*

*Asked as to when in the opinion of the men at the front the war was likely to end, Private Lodwick said that the general opinion in France was that something great was to happen in the beginning of March when the fine weather came, and that this would be the commencement of the end. "The Germans were getting short of ammunition, whilst we had plenty." In proof of this he mentioned that whereas we were now firing 1911 shells, the Germans were firing 1914 shells..."*

By 12 February 1915 a further concert in aid of the Red Cross Society had been held at Bethsaida Baptist Chapel, High Street, and had raised a further £6. Since Christmas the following parcels had been sent off from St. Dogmaels:

To the Red Cross: 24 day shirts; 6 night shirts; 13 body belts; 6 vests; 6 pants; 3 pillows; 2 pillow cases; 1 pair sheets; 1 pair slippers.

To local men serving in the Army or Navy: 52 parcels, each containing 1 muffler, 1 pair socks, 1 pair mittens.

To the Belgian soldiers: 14 mufflers, 10 pairs of mittens, 4 pairs of socks.

On 24 February 1915 H. M. S. *Majestic*, with several local men on board, including Tom Evans and John Jones of St. Dogmaels, conducted mine-sweeping operations in the Dardanelles, and the following day and on 26 February attacked Fort Dardanus, which was armed with four 5.9 inch guns, and some new small batteries erected on the Asiatic Shore. In the earlier stages of the attacks on various forts that day in the Dardanelles, H. M. S. 'Invincible' was involved, on board which was Mr. Tom J. Phillips of St. Dogmaels.

On 3 April 1915 a letter was sent from Mr. Willie Davies, serving on board the H. M. S. 'Majestic', to his uncle, Councillor John Davies of Castle Street, Bridge End, Cardigan. He writes:

*"...I daresay you know we are at present in the Dardanelles. We have been in action eleven times here, but we had a very big battle on the Eighteenth of last month, which you surely have read of in the papers. We lost two of our ships and one French battleship. We were not a thousand yards away from the three ships, and we only just escaped. That was a terrible day. We are not allowed to say much, but we have had some very narrow escapes since the war broke out. We were on the Belgian coast bombarding at Christmas time, with German submarines playing round us all the time. All the Cardigan boys are safe so far, but I would rather be with the Territorials in Scoveston than here. They can have a good time and plenty of food and sleep. We left England in January, and have not been in our depot since last August. I hope the war won't last long. I thought it was bad enough on the Belgian coast, but that was only child's play to the Dardanelles. I heard that the Mayor of Cardigan was going to send us a Christmas box, but we have not received it yet..."*

On a scrap of paper enclosed he adds:

*"...You can't tell lies in your letters, because they read the all before they leave the ship..."*

It was quickly confirmed that, although Cardigan had been generous in sending gifts to the Territorials, nothing whatsoever had been sent to the boys of the Royal Naval Reserve.

On 7 April 1915 a social tea and entertainment was held in St. Dogmaels Council School, once again in aid of the Red Cross Society. Rev. J. D. Hughes of Blaenwaun took the chair, and a musical programme was arranged by Mr. Emrys Thomas. Mrs. and Miss Bowen of Llwyngwair were in attendance, and Mrs. Bowen gave a short address. Following refreshments there was a dramatic performance entitled "Y Teulu Cintachlyd". Together with the various stalls, the event raised a total of £11. 7s. 5d.

On 7 May 1915 the R. M. S. 'Lusitania', a Cunard liner, was sunk by a German U boat of the Old Head of Kinsale, Southern Ireland. Nearly 1200 lives were lost, including 124 American passengers, the loss of which created much consternation in the United States of America, strengthening calls for them to side with the Allies and enter the war.

On 13 May 1915 another letter addressed to Councillor John Davies of Castle Street, Bridge End, Cardigan, was written by Willie Davies – formerly a member of the crew of the 'Majestic'. After stating that he was in the best of health, he writes:

*"...I am sure that you will be surprised to hear that I have landed with the Australian soldiers in Cape Tebe, about 30 miles from the entrance to the Dardanelles, only about six miles from the Narrows. I left my ship a month ago. I was the only one of the Cardigan squad to go. There were 29 of us landed from our ship, and now we are only nine here. I was taking shelter from the shrapnel, which was bursting, one day, when I found a Cardigan boy, the son of Mr. David Morris, Corporation. He landed about four days after me. I was with him for about two hours, and I haven't seen him since, but I hear that his battalion is gone again. He is with the British and I am with the Australians, and their trenches are a long way off. I am quite happy so far, but I would feel better if I had the company of a Cardigan man. I landed with the first boat load that went ashore. The Turks were on the shore waiting for us. That was a sight for a man to see. We landed at four o'clock on the morning of April 26, and before four o'clock that night, we drove the Turks back four miles. But we suffered very heavily. I should like to go back on the old ship to the old Cardigan boys. I have been in action twelve times on the old ship, and now I am having some more on land. Remember me to my old friends at Cardigan. I am quite happy. The only thing I don't like is to sleep in the trenches when it is wet..."*

On 27 May 1915 Messrs. Auberey Grant of Castle Street, and Ernest Thomas of Brecon Terrace, both of Bridge End, Cardigan, joined the Pembrokeshire Yeomanry, and were seen off by the Mayor at Cardigan Railway Station when they left for Carmarthen.

On 27 May 1915 H. M. S. 'Majestic', a pre-dreadnought battleship, was stationed off W Beach at Cape Helles when she was sunk by a single torpedo fired from the German submarine U-21 at about 06.45 in the morning. The ship suffered a huge explosion and quickly began to list to port. Nine minutes later she had capsized with the loss of 40 crew. Tom Jenkins of William Street, Cardigan, recalled:

*“...I happened to be on the upper deck, having only just come up from the lower mess deck, which is under three decks. I heard someone shouting “Torpedoes, torpedoes on the port side.” I ran to the sea gangway port side, when I saw it coming straight for me. It was then about 300 yards away. I blew up my life belt the first thing. I knew what was going to happen, so I ran across to midships and up the ladder to the boat deck, but when I was on the ladder, halfway up, the Majestic was hit right in mid-ships, where I was standing. I fell right back with the shock. Water was blown up and the coal from the bunkers blew all over the ship and right down on me. I was nearly choked on deck. I ran back to the quarter-deck and saw one of the boats outside the nets, so I jumped over the side and out over the booms, and into the boat. In about a minute afterwards the Majestic turned upside-down and sank. One good thing was that there were plenty of boats about in less than three minutes after she was hit, which was very smart work. I was picked up by a French steamboat, and it was all over...”*

There were several local men on board. Most of these survived, but the 49 names on the casualty list included that of Thomas Evans, aged 24, a Royal Naval Reserve Seaman, of No. 7 David Street, St Dogmaels.

On 17 June 1915 the eight local survivors of H. M. S. *Majestic* received a heroes' welcome at Cardigan Railway station. When they got off the early train at the platform, they were ushered to a carriage which, rather than horses, was borne along by willing hands from amongst the cheering crowd.

At this time Captain William Bowen of Corner House, High Street, was the Recruiting Officer for St Dogmaels.

In June 1915 Mrs. James of Tyrhedyn, High Street, St. Dogmaels received a double blow, when she was notified of two bereavements on the same day. Her husband, Captain David James, had been taken ill whilst acting as a Channel Pilot at Gibraltar. He died soon afterwards, aged 59. The same day she was notified that her nephew, Mr. Caradog Griffith of Abigail House, High Street, had died of natural causes aged 27. He had been working as an architect for the War Office. She was unable to contact either of her sons in time for them to attend the funeral. Sub-Lieutenant D. Emyr James was serving on H. M. Transport '*Laurentic*', and Mr. John Lloyd James had joined one of the Australian units.

On 29 June 1915 a barque was sunk off Milford. The '*Cardigan & Tivy-Side Advertiser*' carried the full story on 2 July:

*“...BARQUE SUNK OFF MILFORD. CHIEF OFFICER A ST. DOGMAELS MAN.*

*Just before five o'clock on Monday the crew of survivors of a submarine outrage arrived at Milford Haven Docks, landing stage from a sailing ship, one of the largest of the class under the British Mercantile flag, the Dumfriesshire, owned by Messrs. Law, of Glasgow. The vessel was homeward bound from San Francisco with a cargo of barley. The crew, consisting of Captain Foreman and 29 hands, the chief officer being Mr. Thomas Davies, Golygfa'rafon, St. Dogmaels, had a miraculous escape, and it was no thanks to the pirates that they were not all killed or drowned. Indeed had not the officers been warned to have the boats swung clear for eventualities the men would have had no chance whatever, for the vessel appears to have been hit without any indication of the presence of the enemy. Some of the men were engaged at work, and others had turned in. When the latter got up on deck the ship was filling with water. It is calculated that all was over in three and a half minutes. The crew were picked up by a trawler. On landing they presented a sad spectacle, for the poor fellows, most of whom were Englishmen, had no time to save anything. As usual a home was found at the Sailor's Rest.*

*One of the survivors, a young Yorkshire-man, related to the 'Western Mail' reporter his experience: “We were struck near mid-ships,” he said, “and up went part of the deck in a twinkling. It was all so sudden, but as boats were swinging ready we just jumped in. One little lad got under a boat, and it required careful manoeuvring to get him up. Almost all the port side was blown out, and that is how she went down so quickly.”*

*In reply to a query, he said “We never saw a submarine, nor heard any warning shots till she was struck, I suppose, by a torpedo.”...*

In July 1915 Private David Williams of Rose Lynn was in the Dardanelles with the Royal Welsh Fusiliers.

On 26 July 1915 engineers Mr. D. J. Davies of Ridgeway and Mr. T. Thomas of St. Dogmaels left for France where they were due to join the engineering shops at the Army base.

By the end of July 1915 it was reported that the Cardigan Territorials had left the country for an unknown destination.

On 9 August 1915 the Welsh Regiment, including David Francis Davies of James Terrace, Pilot Street, St. Dogmaels, landed at Gallipoli where they remained until December, suffering heavy casualties.

On 11 August 1915, Lance-Corporal David T. Gibbons went missing at Suvla Bay in the Dardanelles, where the Cardigan Territorials had recently landed.

On 18 August 1915 a successful concert was held at St. Dogmaels Council School in aid of the Red Cross Working Party. The chair was ably taken by Mr. W. F. Roch, M. P. of Plasybridell. During the past twelve months a total of £86. 8s. 3d had been collected and 591 garments made and dispatched to the headquarters of the Red Cross Society and Belgian soldiers. All local army and navy men had been sent parcels. The concert itself was said to be of an excellent standard. The ticket-sellers were Mrs. Bella Thomas; Miss Roberts; Miss Richards; Miss Griffiths and Miss Charlotte Jones. The secretaries were Miss Thomas, The Villa, High Street, and Miss Lewis, Argo Villa, Glanteifon.

On 3 September 1915 a list of local men reported wounded included:

Private Marsden Davies, St. Dogmaels, now at Cardiff Hospital  
Private D. Morris Davies, Hen-dy, St. Dogmaels  
Private J. Stephens, St. Dogmaels  
Private J. O. Jones, Tivy-Terrace, Bridge End, Cardigan (ill, not injured)

By 24 September it had been decided by the members of St. Dogmaels Parish Church to forward the money they had raised for Belgian refugees to the Belgian Minister in London. Mr. G. M. Lewis of Argo Villa was appointed the treasurer. The sum raised was a little over £24.

In September 1915 Private D. Gibbons of Castle Street was listed as missing at the Dardanelles.

On 2 October 1915 a recruitment meeting was held at St. Dogmaels, chaired by Cllr. G. H. Mathias, the Mayor of Cardigan. Although the St. Dogmaels Council School was full of people, most were women, children, and men over military age. The Mayor complained at the outset that he had never attended a recruitment meeting where not a single person present was eligible. Rev. E. J. Lloyd defended St. Dogmaels by pointing out that a large number of men from the village, about forty, were already in service, and several of them had been wounded. Despite some debate on the subject, there were no recruits available and the meeting was brought to a premature conclusion.

By 22 October 1915 Mrs. Gibbon of No. 7 Castle Street, Bridge End, Cardigan, had been incorrectly informed that her son, Lance-Corporal David Gibbon, was in hospital in Alexandria, suffering from a wound.

By 5 November 1915 Privates Marsden Davies and B. O. Lewis of St. Dogmaels were both home on leave. Both were serving with the First/Fourth Welsh and both had been wounded in the Dardanelles.

Also by 5 November 1915 Captain D. J. Evans of Milo, High Street, St. Dogmaels, had been promoted master of the 11, 300 ton S. S. *Wolverton*, under the Russian Government.

On 12 November 1915 David Lawrence Jenkins of No. 3 Castle Street, Bridge End, Cardigan, died at the Gibraltar Naval Hospital from enteric, aged 28.

In November 1915 Private Peter John of Nantygro, St. Dogmaels, was fighting at the Battle of the Somme with the King's Liverpool Regiment.

On 15 December a Bazaar and Jumble Sale were held at the St. Dogmaels Council School to raise funds for the St. Dogmaels branch of the Red Cross Society. It was a great success with about 600 persons attending the event. Mrs. Roch of Plasybridell declared the event open. All the classrooms were decorated, but the large room had been decked out in Japanese style, and many of the girls had dressed in Japanese costumes to serve the tea there. Another twenty girls were dressed as Red Cross Nurses, selling flags. A variety of stalls were also present. The event raised an impressive £70.

1916 – TAKE ME BACK TO DEAR OLD BLIGHTY.

By 7 January 1916 Private Llewelyn S. Lewis of Tivy Terrace, Bridge End, Cardigan, had written to the Mayor of Cardigan thanking the people of the town for the parcels they sent to him in France.

By 7 January 1916 Lance-Corporal D. Morris Davies of Hendy, St. Dogmaels, who had been serving with the Fourth Welsh in the Dardanelles since the landing at Suvla Bay, was in hospital in Malta suffering from frost-bite.

On 15 February 1916 Captain Samuel J. Green, aged 45, of Norwood, High Street, St. Dogmaels, died when his ship, the S. S. *Ashby*, ran aground and was lost in a heavy storm off Ushant, Netherlands.

In February 1916 David Williams of Rose Lynn, St. Dogmaels, was with the Royal Welsh Fusiliers at Kut-al-Amara, Mesopotamia.

On 1 March 1916 St. David's Day was celebrated in St. Dogmaels with another fund-raising effort to help the local "Boys." Artificial leeks were sold by the following ladies: Mrs. Nicholas; Miss Roberts; Miss Wigley; Miss Williams; Miss Richards; and Miss James. The cleverly-crafted items were made by the following ladies: Mrs. Williams, Green Meadow; Mrs. Lloyd Thomas; Miss Graves; Miss Richards; Mrs. Bella Thomas; Miss Roberts; Miss L. Davies; Miss Thomas; Miss Morris; Miss Lewis. In the evening an entertainment (progressive games) was held at the St. Dogmaels Council School. Mr. T. Ll. Williams acted as M. C. Prizes were given by Mrs. Williams, the Briars; Miss Thomas, Villa, High Street; Miss Wigley; Mrs. Bella Thomas; Miss Elna Lloyd Thomas; and Miss Lewis. Over £5 was raised for the local Red Cross.

On 15 March 1916 Rev. J. D. Hughes, Minister of Blaenwaun and Bethsaida, complained that there were no Welsh-speakers on the Pembrokeshire Tribunal dealing with appeals against the "call-up". He felt that this left first-language Welsh speakers seriously disadvantaged when putting forward their cases.

On 27 March 1916 Mrs. Margaretta Williams of Cannon House, St. Dogmaels, died aged 68 after a short illness. Two of her sons were not aware of her death until after the funeral – namely Captain D. Williams, commander of the Training Ship "*Medway*", and Lieutenant G. D. Williams, R. N. R., serving on H. M. S. "*Sydney*."

On 14 April 1916 Lloyd's reported the loss of the 4341 ton S. S. "*Eastern City*", owned by W. R. Smith and Son, Cardiff. The Captain was D. R. Thomas of Dychwelfa, St. Dogmaels, and he and the crew of 39 were all saved.

On 25 April 1916 a "patriotic professional concert" was held at Bethsaida Baptist Chapel, High Street, St. Dogmaels, in aid of the Red Cross Fund. Performers included Miss Morfydd Owen (R. A. M. scholar) and Mr. Emlyn Davies (A. R. C. M. London), assisted by Madame Edith Rees Evans and party. The Right Honourable Sir Lawrence Hugh Jenkins presided and Rev. J. D. Hughes was the conductor. Many of the arrangements were made by Mr. T. Ll. Williams, Briars, and Captain Lloyd, Post Office. The receipts totalled an impressive £32.

On 31 May 1916 the naval Battle of Jutland was fought – probably the greatest battle in naval history. Seaman Benjamin Jones of Bwlchymwthshwr was one of the men who saw the thick of the battle. Writing home to a friend he noted:

*"...Just to let you know I am safe after being an eye-witness of the great fight. They had a good whacking this time. Our ship, the Valiant, did well. When we were called to our action stations, everybody went for his life-belt. Funny thing, my life-belt was wrapped in a 'Tivy-Side' which I had from home. Good job it was not required...."*

Ordinary Seaman Herbert Thomas Davies, 18, of Glanteifon Cottage was lost at sea on the battleship H. M. S. '*Queen Mary*' during the Battle of Jutland on 31 May. The '*Queen Mary*' was subjected to direct hits from the *Seydlitz* and the *Derfflinger*, and the resultant explosion and sinking killed 1,266 men. Also lost on the '*Queen Mary*' was Walter J. Simmons, 18, chief signalman. He was a nephew of Mrs. Lloyd Thomas, Tivy House, St. Dogmaels.

Also lost at the Battle of Jutland was Thomas James Phillips of St. Dogmaels, 24, an Engine Room Artificer on board H. M. S. *Invincible*. The vessel was struck by torpedoes from the German S. M. S. *Lutzow*, and exploded, killing 1,000 crewmen.

By the end of June 1916 Sub-Lieutenant T. L. Williams, R. N. R., son of Mrs. Williams, Green Meadow, St. Dogmaels, was promoted to Lieutenant, as was Sub-Lieutenant David Williams of Brodawel, St. Dogmaels.

On 3 July 1916 Sergeant Herbert Williams of St. Dogmaels was killed at the Somme, aged 30.

On 12 July 1916 Daniel James Griffiths of Castle Street, Bridge End, Cardigan, was killed by an exploding shell, aged 29. Another 5 men were killed and a further 21 men were injured.

On 19 July 1916 Private John "Jack" Griffiths of No. 3 Castle Street, Cardigan, was killed in France by an exploding shell. His sisters at Castle Street were informed of his death on 27 July. He was 32 years old. The letter to his sisters from the Rev. S. M. Rankin, Chaplain to the Warwicks, stated:

*"...I grieve to tell you that your brother was killed in action on the 19 of July during our attack, fighting valiantly. He was buried with his comrades and a cross placed over the grave. We deeply sympathise with you. He has joined the great multitude of heroes who have laid down their lives for their brethren. What grander thing could a man do? He is in the hands of God, and no torment can touch him. 'Laus Deo'..."*

On 19 July 1916 Mr. Benjamin Williams of Rose Lynn, St. Dogmaels, died aged 54, after being taken ill while hay-making, and being rushed to Swansea Hospital for surgery. He left a widow and seven children, including two sons serving in the army. On the same day Mrs. David E. Evans, daughter of Mrs. James, Tyrhedyn, High Street, died aged 27. Eight years previously she had been saved from drowning in the river Teifi by the man who, subsequently, became her husband in 1914. Neither her brother nor her cousin were able to attend the funeral as both were serving in France and could not be contacted.

On 21 July 1916 it was reported that Private David William Davies of the Welsh Fusiliers, son of Mr. & Mrs. William Davies, High Street, St. Dogmaels, had received a slight bayonet and shrapnel wound in the left arm. His brother, Private Marsden Davies, was wounded whilst serving with the Cardigan Territorials at Gallipoli.

Many local men appealed against their call-up in the summer of 1916. One was Evan Jones, 38, married with three children and living at No. 2 Grove Terrace. He was a carpenter and a fisherman. He had two brothers in the Navy. He was caring for his mother who was 74 and bed-ridden. He was granted conditional exemption.

On 6 August 1916 Private James Lewis Thomas was killed. He had been born in St. Dogmaels, but had emigrated to Australia before the outbreak of the war, with his brother, David John Thomas. James' battalion was moving through the remains of Pozierees when James was killed, aged 33.

On 22 August 1916 Mr. Walter Ll. Ladd, who kept a smith's shop at Pilot Street, St. Dogmaels, drowned in the Teifi when the boat he was travelling in with two other men overturned. Aged 22 he had been a member of the Cardigan Company of the First/Fourth Welsh Regiment for three years, and had been in camp with them prior to their leaving for the Dardanelles. He was demobilised in order to carry on his trade as a blacksmith and on July 1 was transferred to the Territorial Force Reserve, Class W.

On 1 September 1916 Private Joseph J. Prethero was killed in action. He was born at Castle Street, Bridge End, Cardigan. He was killed in the Battle of the Somme near Bernafay Wood, aged 35.

By 13 October 1916 an Australian Naval Officer – Paymaster E. Kingsford-Smith – was staying at Cannon House, High Street, St. Dogmaels as the guest of Lieutenant G. D. Williams, R. A. N. R. The Paymaster had taken part in the sinking of the German raider "Emden" and was slightly wounded during that exchange. Both men were on a few days' leave from their ship.

On 13 October 1916 Evan Owen Davies of St. Dogmaels was killed in action during the height of the Battle of Le Transloy.

On 27 October 1916 the 'Cardigan & Tivy-Side Advertiser' printed the following item:

*"...Marvellous Escapes. - Captain W. J. Baker, son-in-law of Captain Lloyd, Post Office, has had three marvellous escapes from the clutches of the enemy. One one occasion he was caught by the Karlsruhe whilst on voyage from Port Talbot to Brazil in September 1914. Later, whilst going from the Tyne to Genoa on the S. S. Fall City his vessel touched a mine in the North Sea and was towed to the Thames in a sinking condition. Latterly news has come from New York that the S. S. Autinous has arrived there after being attacked by a submarine..."*

In early November 1916 Mr. Benjamin Jones of Bwlchymwtshwr, St. Dogmaels, received a Long Service and Good Conduct Medal. He was congratulated on his meritorious service. It was noted that he had taken part in the Battle of Jutland.

On 17 November 1916 The S. S. 'Sarah Radcliffe' was struck by a German torpedoe fired by a submarine, followed by around twenty shells. The vessel sank a few minutes later. The 28 crewmen, including Chief Officer David James

Evans of Milo, High Street, St. Dogmaels, were saved by a Norwegian steamer named the '*Lucin*'. They were safely landed at Lisbon.

In late November 1916 Private Benjamin D. Jenkins, Royal Welsh Fusiliers, son of the late Mr. D. Jenkins and Mrs. Jenkins of Pilot Street, St. Dogmaels, was awarded the Military Medal for bravery and devotion to duty in France. Private Jenkins enlisted in the early period of the war and had been out in France for nearly 12 months.

By 24 November 1916 Mrs. Gibbons of Castle Street, Cardigan, had received a communication from the War Office stating that, as they had had no further news, they had concluded that her son, Lance-Corporal David T. Gibbon of the First/Fourth Welsh, was dead. He landed with the Cardigan Company of Territorials at Suvla Bay in August 1915 and went missing on 11 August that year.

On 26 November 1916 Chief Engineer David Owen Jones of Brynhelyg, No. 4 Upper Spring Gardens, Bridge End, Cardigan, died, whilst serving on the S. S. *San Jeronimo*. His death, at the age of 41, was from natural causes and he was buried at sea.

By 22 December 1916 the 6, 000 ton S. S. *Flimston* of Cardiff, owned by Messrs. Evan Thomas, Radcliffe & Co., had been sunk by a German submarine. There were four St. Dogmaels men aboard – Mr. Bertie Bowen Jones, engineer; Mr. David Owen; Mr. John Jones; and Mr. George Evans. It was reported that all of the men had survived, but that they were all prisoners of the Germans.

Also by 22 December 1916 another 48 parcels had been sent from St. Dogmaels to local men serving on the various fronts. A house to house collection in the district had raised a respectable £16. 1s. 8d. The collectors were: Mrs. Nicholas, Brooklyn Villas; Miss Lewis, Argo Villa; Mrs. Evans and Miss Leah Davies, St. Dogmaels Council School; Mrs. Cole and Miss L. Davies, Council School; Miss Davies, Brynifor, High Street; and Miss Richards, Tucker Terrace, High Street. Purchasing and despatching was overseen by Miss Leah Davies.

## 1917 – SAY A PRAYER FOR THE BOYS OUT THERE.

In January 1917 the Appeals Tribunal heard the case of Thomas Picton Williams, 19, of Rose Lynn, St. Dogmaels. As the appeal had been made by his mother, on the grounds of domestic hardship, it was dismissed. On two previous occasions the young man's employers had appealed, but that was not the case on this occasion, and he was classed as eligible for service.

At the same hearing Mr. W. J. Williams, solicitor, appeared in the case of David T. Lewis, an unmarried 18 year old from No. 7 Tivy Terrace, Bridge End, Cardigan. David was a motor mechanic's apprentice, whose father appealed on the grounds that his only three brothers were already in the army, the father was unable to work regularly and the mother was an invalid. The tribunal dismissed the appeal and declared him fit for service.

On 25 January 1917 Private David Williams, son of the late Mr. Benjamin Williams and of Mrs. Williams of Rose Lynn, St Dogmaels, was killed in action at Kut-el-Amara, Mesopotamia, aged 24.

On 25 January 1917 Lieutenant David Thomas Emyr James, son of the late Captain David James and Mrs. Annie James of Tyrhedyn, High Street, St. Dogmaels, was killed when his ship, the White Star liner H. M. S. *Laurentic* was sunk off the Irish coast by a mine. He was 32. 350 crew perished in the sinking. His mother had lost her husband, daughter and son in a very short space of time. His only brother was serving in France.

On 26 January 1917 it was reported that Private Llewelyn S. Lewis, son of Mr. William Lewis of Tivy Terrace, Bridge End, Cardigan, was home on leave from France for 10 days. He had enlisted in Swansea a month after the war broke out, and had served in France for about 18 months. Although he had been through some big engagements, he had got through with barely a scratch.

Also on 26 January 1917 it was stated that an anonymous St. Dogmaels gentleman was offering plots of land free of charge for the growing of potatoes to assist demands for locally-grown cheap food.

On 23 February 1917 the foundry men at Bridge End Foundry went on strike.

On 23 February 1917 Private George Gordon Rees, Welsh Guardsman, Penrhyn Mawr, Cippyn, died aged 28 in a military hospital, from bronchio-pneumonia contracted while on active service at the Somme, France.

On 27 February 1917 Benjamin David Jenkins, M. M., the son of Mrs. Sarah Jenkins of Jones Terrace, Pilot Street, St Dogmaels, was killed in action in the Ancre Valley, France, aged 24.

On 12 March 1917 Alfred William ("Willie") Thomas, aged 39, of No. 2 Lloyd's Terrace, St Dogmaels, was lost when the S. S. '*Menmon*' was torpedoed. The S. S. *Menmon* was sailing from Dakar to Hull, in the English Channel, about twenty miles south-west of Portland Bill, when the German submarine UC-66 fired on her without warning, sinking the vessel. Mr. Charles Lees, Superintendent of the company, wrote to Mrs. Thomas as follows:

*"...If it is true that he has gone down in the ship, he has died as much in the service of his country as if he had served in the Army or Navy, and will be equally honoured..."*

Chief Engineer Mr. W. Hughes of Port Dinorwic wrote:

*"...Mr. Thomas had just gone below five minutes before it occurred; he and the third and the donkeyman were therefore in the engine room when it happened, and without a doubt the three were killed instantly by the explosion. I was at the time in my room and failed for a few minutes to get out, the door being jammed in. When I managed to get out I stepped into the engine room and called out, but the place was already full of water. We were torpedoed at 4.5 p. m. on Monday afternoon, March 12 inst., 30 miles of Portland; the torpedo struck the ship right in the engine room, and anyone in the engine room at the time had not the slightest chance. The ship sank in less than ten minutes, and we were in the boats for eight and a half hours before we were picked up by T. B. 86 and taken into Weymouth. Altogether six lives were lost, but I can hardly realise yet that Mr. Thomas has gone, as he and I were such very great friends; in fact I feel as if I had lost a brother, and I hardly know yet what I am doing. Poor Mrs. Thomas has my deepest sympathy in her sad bereavement..."*

On 26 March 1917 Quartermaster-Sergeant David Francis Davies, son of John and Margaret Davies, James Terrace, Pilot Street, St. Dogmaels, was killed at Gaza, aged 25.

On 29 March 1917 Private Marsden Davies of St. Dogmaels wrote home stating:

*"...I have been wounded. I was hit with a piece of shell through the knee and had all my top teeth smashed in the bayonet charge. D. Francis Davies was next to me in the charge. He was a brave fellow and was right up in the front line with us all the day. I can count myself one of the lucky ones, as we were in a tight corner before we forced our way through. Ben Lewis has been wounded, but Johnny Stephens is quite safe..."*

On 2 April 1917 Private Emrys Ladd of Queen's Terrace, Cardigan, wrote:

*"...I have scarcely the heart to write now after our poor boys that are gone – dear George Richards and D. Francis Davies and others...Dai (Francis) Davies died instantly...Jack James, Tom Richards (St. Dogmaels), Jack Rees (R. F. A.), are all right, also Danny Davies..."*

On 6 April 1917 the following item appeared in the 'Cardigan & Tivy-Side Advertiser':

*"...'PADDLING HIS OWN CANOE.' CARDIGAN SKIPPER AND THE GERMAN PIRATES.*

*Cardigan people will be interested to read the following story of the indifference with which our sailors regard the machination of the German pirates, in so much that the captain of the boat is a Cardigan man, Capt. W. B. Ladd, Rose Cottage, St. Dogmaels, and son of Mr. Ladd, Grangetown, Cardigan. This is the second time that Capt. Ladd has had his ship torpedoed, the same ship, to be correct, the first occasion being about two years ago, when the vessel was taken into Cherbourg. An officer who assisted in the rescue of the crew of a Cardiff vessel which was torpedoed describes (in a letter to the principal of the firm) the bravery displayed by the members of the crew. In this letter he says:- "What I should particularly like to emphasise to you is the extraordinarily brave spirit of all hands. When we came up to the at 7 a. m., after they had been three hours either on a raft or an upturned boat, the one lot were singing "Keep the home fires burning", and the other "Tipperary". The captain was literally 'paddling his own canoe' on a plank, and was most plucky. The mate was, I think, the pick of the bunch, followed by the bo's'un, but all were splendid."..."*

In April 1917 David James Evans of Milo, High Street, St. Dogmaels, survived another torpedo attack.

On 16 April 1917 Private John Ladd died of natural causes at home. He was born in St. Dogmaels.

On 25 April 1917 a concert was held at Bethsaida Baptist Chapel, High Street, St. Dogmaels, in aid of the Russian Wounded Fund. Mr. Bowen Davies of Cardigan brought over his celebrated Ladies' Party and the Mixed Glee Party. Mr. D. Lloyd Jones of Cardigan presided and Rev. J. D. Hughes conducted. Other performers included Miss Beryl Baker, and the St. Dogmaels Council School children. £18 was raised.

On 27 April 1917 Private Fred Davies of the 'Eagle Inn', Castle Street, Bridge End, Cardigan, was listed as "wounded in action".

On 28 April 1917 Private Peter John, the son of Mrs. Ann John of Nantygro, Penrhiw, St. Dogmaels, was killed in action in the Battle of Arras, aged 24.

On 3 May 1917 Private Llewelyn S. Lewis, Bedfordshire Regiment, son of Mr. & Mrs. William Lewis, No. 7 Tivy Terrace, Bridge End, Cardigan, was slightly wounded in the shoulder in France. His brother, Driver D. T. Lewis, was in hospital in Petersfield, recovering from a bout of pneumonia.

On 3 May 1917 Private John Sidney Davies, son of Mr. Henry Davies, Heathfield, St. Dogmaels, was killed in action in the Battle of Arleux, aged 25.

On 4 May 1917 a letter from Corporal D. Jones of Station Road, Bridge End, Cardigan was received by his sister, Miss L. E. Jones of No. 3 Bingham Terrace, Cardigan. In it he states:

*"...I am glad to say I am in the best of health after a very hard fight. I came through the battle without a scrap. We miss our pals very much, as we lost some Cardigan boys in the struggle. The boys all sympathise very much with their relatives at home, but they fought well, and made a name for themselves. I have been promoted full corporal now. We are having a rest behind the firing line, and Dannie Davies (Queen's Terrace) is our cook..."*

On 6 May 1917 David John Davies of the Eagle Inn, Castle Street, Bridge End, Cardigan, died in the war.

On 11 May 1917 it was reported that four St. Dogmaels sailors had recently been the victim of German piracy, namely: Mr. Granville Jenkins the son of Captain W. Jenkins, Greenfield ( a prisoner in Germany since the beginning of the war); Mr. J. Edwin Phillips, Brynhyfryd, a Second Engineer; Mr. D. J. Evans, Milo, High Street, Chief Officer; and Captain W. G. Richards, Bridge House. This was the third time that Mr. D. J. Evans had survived a torpedo attack. All four men were safe.

On 11 May 1917 Mr. W. R. Stephens, Cwmins, St. Dogmaels, received a letter from his son, Lance-Corporal Johnny Stephens, in which he wrote:

*"...I am very well, barring that I am in need of a smoke. There is not tobacco or cigarettes of any kind here, and can't get any for a while because we are still in the trenches. They have promoted me to lance-corporal, and I have asked them to take the stripe off, but they won't. Please tell D. Francis Davies' mother that I have lost a great friend through the death of her son. He was always happy whatever happened. Jack Picton, Tom Richards, 'Albert Foxhill' and myself are alright..."*

On 18 May 1917 Private John Rees Thomas, son of Mr. David Thomas, Tivy Inn, St. Dogmaels, was home for a few days' leave. Private Thomas had been in hospital for a few weeks under treatment, having been wounded in the left hand during recent fighting in France.

On 1 June 1917 'Cambrian Mills', Teifi Stores, St Dogmaels, was closed down, to local dismay.

On 1 June 1917 Private David John Thomas was killed. Born in St. Dogmaels, he and his brother, James Lewis Thomas, had both emigrated to Australia before the war. Private Thomas was on his very first day at Ploegsteert when he was killed, aged 34, on 1 June 1917.

On 3 June 1917 a memorial service was held at Bethsaida Baptist Chapel, High Street, St. Dogmaels, in memory of Private Peter John and Sergeant Sidney Davies, both of whom had recently been killed in the war.

On 15 June 1917 Rev. D. Richards, the Minister of Capel Seion Calvinistic Methodist Chapel, St. Dogmaels, received a letter from his son, Mr. W. Lloyd Richards (a former apprentice with Cardigan chemist Thomas Llewelyn), who was out in Flanders. He wrote:

*"...You will see in the papers very soon that things are very lively up here at present. To-night, during a few moments of spare time, I have been interesting myself in watching a great batch of German prisoners and in trying to wriggle off them some decent souvenirs. My sprinkling knowledge of German on this occasion proved indeed a bit useful. Within a few days I shall be traversing ground on which I have had to be content simply to look for the past nine months. But that is not my point in writing home to-day – so soon after I sent my other letters. Tonight I was lucky enough to see a chap from Cilgerran of the name and address, Thomas, Pendre. He is in the R. E., but in a completely different lot from mine. I had noticed him several times among the crowds of soldiers during the night, and all the while I seemed to have a faint recollection of having seen him somewhere before. At any rate, to finally settle this matter, I decided to go to him. Nor was I disappointed. Strange to state, he was also of the same impression as to myself, and thought he must have seen me at Mr. Llewelyn's, the chemist, Cardigan. Without any ceremony we introduced ourselves one to the other, and I can tell you we soon engaged ourselves in talking about the old scenes and events, and last, but not least, about our present experiences in Flanders. But that is not the end of the pleasant evening. We both took a walk along the village, when lo and behold! Another chap turns up and greets my new friend, recognising in him an old pal. This second one is a bombardier in the R. F. A., and hails from Rhoshill near Boncath. His name is Edwards. He had just returned to active service from hospital and was now looking forward to some hot work to be done. After talking to each other for a while he suddenly took out of his pocket a pink slip of paper. How pleased we were to find that two men from the neighbourhood of Cardigan were the very first to congratulate Edwards on his receiving the Military Medal. Fancy! What luck! And with the very first Cardis met out here! Well, we had a few coffees together, gossiped, etc., and so we passed and ended a happy evening. I think the booming of the guns made the peaceful recollections a thousand times more pleasant. Our occupations lead us to different parts of the line, but I do hope we three will meet again. Au revoir..."*

William Lloyd Richards was a Pioneer with the Royal Engineers and had the Service No. 195930. He was posted to No. 3 Special Company, engaged in devising gases as Chemical Warfare to use against the Germans.

On 15 June 1917 Private John Emrys Ladd, Danybryn, Cwmdegwel, St. Dogmaels, died of wounds received at the Battle of Arras, aged 23.

On 22 June 1917 it was reported that Mr. Thomas Bowen of Pilot Street, St. Dogmaels, had received notice that his son, Lance-Corporal Thomas James Bowen, had received a slight shrapnel wound to the face during the fighting in France.

On 6 July 1917 Private Llewelyn S. Lewis of No. 7 Tivy Terrace, Bridge End, Cardigan, was home on ten days' leave, having been wounded near Bullecourt on 3 May. He had a shrapnel bullet in the shoulder, and was still convalescent. He was one of four brothers serving.

On 11 July 1917 Private John Morgan Morris, son of John and Ann Morris, Forest House, St. Dogmaels, died of wounds aged 45. Before the war he had emigrated to Australia. On 11 July he was wounded at Ypres and was transferred to the 10 Australian Field Ambulance, where he died of his injuries later that day.

On 13 July 1917 it was reported that Lieutenant G. D. Williams of Cannon House, High Street, St. Dogmaels, had been promoted to Lieutenant-Commander for "specially meritorious service in the Fleet." In the early part of the war, Williams had served in the Australian Royal Navy and then served on H. M. A. S. *Sydney*. By this date he was the First Lieutenant of another ship active in Northern waters.

On 26 July 1917 Private Benjamin Williams of Rose Lynn, St Dogmaels, was killed in action at Ypres, Belgium, aged 20. Just six months earlier his brother had been killed in Mesopotamia. He had another brother in the army and a further brother in the transport service.

On 31 July 1917 Gunner William Baxter Roberts, Green Meadow, St Dogmaels, was killed in action in Belgium in the Battle of Poelcappelle, aged 33. He left a widow and two children – one of whom had been born since he left for France. Mrs. Roberts was notified of her husband's death by the following letter from the Chaplain, J. Woodside Robinson, C. F.:-

*"...Dear Mrs. Roberts,*

*It is with sincere sorrow that I write to you regarding your dear husband's death on the 31 July. You will have heard the sad news before now, but I wanted, as Chaplain of the Artillery, just to express my very deep sympathy with you and your little children in your great loss. I am the Scottish Chaplain, but I look after all who need my services. You will be glad to know that your husband was at the post of duty – indeed, it was more than his duty, for he was doing a very unselfish act in helping others when he met his death. He had no pain, and passed away at once. I have spoken to those who were his closest friends, and they are unanimous in saying that he was a fine man, a true character and a faithful soldier. He was quite ready for the call, for he lived a Christian life and worshipped God faithfully; surely that is a thing to be proud of now, and you may be sure that all is well with him. I conducted a nice service, and saw him reverently laid to rest in a British Cemetery where many a hero is lying. I am not permitted to give you the location, but after a few weeks if you will write to the War Office they will tell you. His Officers and N. C. O.'s and men greatly regret his loss, and offer you, along with me, their earnest sympathy. I pray God will abundantly bless and comfort you and your little children and all his friends in this sore trial. Be sure of this, that God will never fail or forsake you..."*

On 3 August 1917 it was reported that Mr. David William ("Teddy") Davies, son of Mr. & Mrs. William Davies of Brynifor, High Street, St. Dogmaels, had obtained his second mate's certificate in London. He had previously spent two and a half years in the army, having joined the 14 Welsh. He served in France for 17 months, and had been wounded at the Battle of the Somme.

On 3 August 1917 it was reported that the Military Medal awarded to the late Private Benjamin D. Jenkins, son of Mrs. Jenkins, Pilot Street, St. Dogmaels, for gallant conduct in France, had been forwarded to his mother the previous week by the authorities.

On 26 August 1917 Thomas Hector Davies, son of Capt. Thomas Davies, River View, St. Dogmaels, went missing and was later pronounced missing presumed dead. Mr. Davies was the Third Engineer on the S. S. *Marmion* of west Hartlepool which was torpedoed by the German submarine U38 off the Atlantic coast of France on that date. The *Marmion* had been travelling from Annaba to Marseilles with a cargo of iron. The crew got off into two lifeboats, and during the night they got separated. The boat in which were the Captain and 18 crew was picked up on 29 August. Since the boats separated during a squall of rain, nothing further had been seen of the other boat, in which Mr. Davies was. This was the second time for Mr. Davies to be torpedoed.

On 6 October 1917 Passchendale was captured by the British.

On 8 October 1917 Private John Griffiths of Fairfield, St Dogmaels, was killed at Ypres, Belgium, aged 39, in the Battle of Poelcappelle.

On 11 October 1917 Second Engineer William David Harper died at sea. He was born in St. Dogmaels, the son of William Henry Harper and Jane Harper of the '*Webley Hotel*'. He served aboard the S. S. *Cayo Bonito* – a London-

registered defensively-armed merchant ship. On 11 October, whilst transporting a cargo of fuel from Swansea to Leghorn, she was torpedoed without warning by the German UC-35 submarine whilst 4 miles E. N. E. of Savona, Italy, and sank. William Harper, 31, was one of six men lost in the incident. His only brother was serving in France. One of the men who survived the incident, Chief Engineer W. Joseph of Napier Street, Cardigan, suggested that, had he not gone below to try and rouse and save two firemen who had been sleeping below, he might not have been lost.

In October 1917 Benjamin Davies of the 'Eagle Inn', Castle Street, Bridge End, Cardigan, was killed by German U-boat action.

By 9 November 1917 Mr. & Mrs. Lewis of Glanavon, Tivy Terrace, Bridge End, Cardigan, had heard from their son, Private Johnny Lewis, that he had been invalided home from France and was now lying at Ninian Park Hospital, Cardiff, where he was progressing favourably.

By 23 November 1917 Private Caradog Thomas, serving in France, had written in a letter home:

*"...Many thanks for your kind and welcome parcel. The contents suited me fine, and I am sure that the rest of the bys as well as myself are greatly obliged to the people of Cardigan for their kindness. We are doing well here lately the only drawback being the weather. But I don't suppose it will keep on raining for ever..."*

On 26 November 1917 John Davies of Penwaun, St Dogmaels, was fined £5 for concealing a deserter – Private William George Gwyon. This is how the 'Cardigan & Tivy-Side Advertiser' reported the story:

*"...HARBOURING A DESERTER.*

#### *ST. DOGMAELS FARMER FINED £5 AT CARDIGAN*

*At the Cardigan Petty Sessions held at the Old Council Chamber on Monday, before the Mayor, Alderman John Evans (in the chair), Messrs. D. O. Jones, O. Beynon Evans and E. Ceredig Evans, John Davies, Penywaun Farm, St. Dogmaels, was summoned by Superintendent D. Williams, Llandyssul, for aiding to conceal Private William George Gwyon, a deserter from H. M. Forces, at Penywaun Farm. Defendant pleaded not guilty.*

*P. S. John Evans said that on November 7 he, in company with P. C. Charman, visited Penywaun Far, and arrested a deserter named William George Gwyon for absenting himself from the South Wales Borderers, stationed at Sniggery Camp, Liverpool. He was brought before the magistrates and ordered to be handed over to the military authorities. When they were at the farm they saw the defendant, who was the 'occupier', his son and the deserter, who was in private clothes, in a haggard on the farm. Witness asked the defendant who the man was, and he said 2He does not belong to me." In answer to further questions he admitted that the man had slept and boarded at Penywaun for about three months, but that he was visiting his home now and then. He also said he knew the man was a soldier, and added that his uniform was left at his home at Hendrewen and that he would send for them.*

*In reply to D. C. C. Williams witness said the man had been a deserter since April last.*

*P. C. Charman corroborated, and added that Davies said that he knew that Gwyon had run away from the Army, and that he was a relative of his.*

*Defendant said that the man had been going from the farm to his home periodically. He did not hide him at all. He went about openly in the distict, and had been in Cardigan more than once.*

*The Deputy Chief Constable said that it was the duty of every an to report a deserter, and the defendant had admitted that he had not done so although he knew he was a deserter.*

*The Bench decided to inflict a fine of 35, and the Chairman pointed out that it was the duty of every person to report a deserter to the authorities. It was a very serious offence, and the defendant could be fined £100 and six month's imprisonment..."*

On 29 November 1917 the news was received that Private Edward Davies of Rhydygwin, St Dogmaels, had lost an arm on active service. He had been serving with the Royal Welsh Fusiliers when he received a gunshot wound to the left arm in France. The limb had been amputated. Before the war Private Davies had been employed by the Star Supply Stores in Cardigan. He enlisted early in 1915 and had been in France for almost 15 months.

On 30 November 1917 a letter was received from Signaller T. G. James of St. Dogmaels, in which he wrote:

*“...Once again I have the greatest pleasure in writing to thank you and the townspeople of Cardigan for your kindness. I have not seen a Cardigan fellow out here although I have been in a lot of places in France and Belgium. I was sorry to hear of the deaths of two local engineers (Mr. D. Jenkins and Hector Davies), two personal friends of mine. No one can consider himself safe now if he is in range of the enemy. Thanking you for all you have done in the past and now...”*

By 30 November 1917 Mrs. Richards, Alltfach, St. Dogmaels, had been informed by the War Office that her son, Lance-Corporal Tom J. Richards, had been wounded during the fighting in Palestine, having received a bullet wound in the right thigh. He had been with the Cardigan Territorials since the start of the war, having previously been employed by the Cardigan Mercantile Company.

On 2 December 1917 Captain David Rees Thomas of Dychwelfa, St. Dogmaels, died at home aged 40 years after a short illness. Since the beginning of hostilities he had been on two Mercantile Marine ships that had been torpedoed by the enemy. On the first occasion he had suffered a shrapnel wound to the hand whilst leaving the ship. The shrapnel wound cut right through his wrist, and he was a patient at Cardiff Hospital for some months, and endured many operations. He went back to sea in January 1917 and on just his second voyage his ship was torpedoed. This time the vessel did not sink, and was towed into port. About five weeks prior to his death, Captain Thomas had attended a Gunnery course at Portsmouth and returned home on 10 November. He left a widow and six children.

On 3 December 1917 Second Officer Thomas George Davies, son of Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Davies of No. 11 Brecon Terrace, Bridge End, Cardigan, was pronounced missing presumed dead. He was serving with the Mercantile Marine aboard the S. S. *Dowlais*, a 3000 ton defensively armed Cardiff-registered ship owned by Messrs. Morrel and Company. They were sailing in the Mediterranean, off Cap de Fer, when the vessel was torpedoed without warning and sunk by the German UB 48 submarine. Only five of the crew were saved. Thomas, aged 28, was lost. He was described as very unassuming and kind.

By 7 December 1917 Private J. Wheeler of Bridge End, Cardigan, had written the following in a letter home:

*“...I have the greatest pleasure in writing you to thank you for your kind and welcome parcel. It came at just the right time, as we were going out for the night. We were about eight of us in our dug-out, and not one of us had any cigarettes, so you can bet we thought a lot of them. With regard to the socks they are the handiest thing a soldier can have out here at this time of the year. Thank you one and all for your kind help...”*

At the same time Private J. Lloyd Jones of St. Dogmaels wrote the following in a letter home from Flanders:-

*“...It is now on the march 'outward bound' from the lines that I find time to thank you sincerely for your very fine gift of socks, cigarettes, 'llefrith', etc. These comforts reached me on the way out to the trenches, and I assure you the postmark of Cardigan warmed the cockles of my heart. There in the dear old town, far from the battle line I was fast approaching, were friends who thought of me. My comrades shared the delicacies amidst showers of shells of shrapnel, high explosives and gas which the Germans present to us with unfailing regularity...”*

On 19 December 1917 a fund-raising evening of Progressive Games in aid of the Red Cross was held at St. Dogmaels Council School. It raised £8. 11s.

By 21 December 1917 Seaman Alfonso Davies, R. N. R. who belonged to the Cardigan Force, and who lived at Abbey Forge, Cwmdegwel, St. Dogmaels, was “Mentioned in Despatches.”

Also by 21 December 1917 Sergeant David O. James of Ridgeway, son of the late Mr. David James, had received a Military Medal for distinguishing himself on the battlefield while serving with the Tenth Welsh. He was one of three brothers serving.

In December 1917 Lieutenant T. Williams, R. N. R. of St. Dogmaels, the son of Mrs. Williams, Green Meadow, had just secured his Master Mariner's certificate at Leith.

By 28 December 1917 Mr. Bertie Jones, Chief Engineer on a transport ship, had arrived home after surviving a second torpedo attack in the North Sea. He was the second son of Mrs. Bowen Jones of Marine Villa, Glanteifon, St. Dogmaels.

## 1918 - GOODBYE, FRANCE!

On 23 January 1918 three St. Dogmaels families lost relatives when the S. S. *Bay Kerran*, a London-owned vessel, foundered. The three lost local men were: Seaman Johnny Williams, son of Mrs. M. Williams of Rose Lynn, St Dogmaels, 23; Seaman Henry J. Pope, 20, only son of Mrs. M. Pope, Finch-square, St. Dogmaels; and Seaman Emlyn Isaac, 16, son of Mr. & Mrs. John Isaac, David Street. The ship had been sailing from America when, about 500 miles from Nova Scotia she got into difficulties due to the heavy seas. A wireless distress message was sent out, and was received by an American warship, but despite an extensive search, no trace of the vessel was found. She was pronounced lost with all hands. Particular sympathy was felt with Mrs. M. Williams of Rose Lynn who, in the space of about 18 months, had lost her husband and two sons, and another son was in a British military hospital at the time.

By 25 January 1918 Lance-Corporal J. Lloyd James of Tyrhedyn, High Street, St. Dogmaels, had been awarded the Military Medal for gallantry on the field of battle. Under heavy barrage fire he maintained communication from the forefront crater area to his battalion and Brigade Headquarters. For his bravery he was also promoted to the rank of Lance-Corporal. A former Cardigan County Secondary School pupil, he had joined the Australian Forces at the outbreak of the war. He had served in Egypt, the Dardanelles and France, and had recently been wounded.

In February 1918, one local man on active duty in France was Sgt. G. D. Gwynne of The Mill (Y Felin), St. Dogmaels (who was awarded the Military Medal for his service in the War).

On 4 February 1918 Benjamin Davies, the son of Mrs. Davies of the *Eagle Inn*, Castle Street, Bridge End, Cardigan, was lost at sea. He had been serving in the Mercantile Marine as a marine apprentice on board the S. S. *Traveal*. On this date the ship was carrying iron ore to Barrow from Algiers when the German submarine U-53 fired a torpedo at the vessel and sank her. Benjamin Davies was killed, aged 19.

By 8 February 1918 the Mayor of Cardigan had received a letter from Mr. James Davies, Royal Flying Corps, of Velindre House, St. Dogmaels, then serving at the Somme. He wrote:

*"...I have great pleasure in informing you that I received the parcel sent by you safely. I am very proud of it, as it is the first that I have received since I am out here. I am very glad to say that I enjoyed the pudding and the 'cigs', etc., which were very neatly packed and none the worse for the rough handling. I ask you and the kind people of Cardigan who look after us so well to accept my most sincere thanks for the parcel. You can't imagine how proud we are to receive such parcels, as they are proofs that we are not forgotten..."*

Private D. L. James of Cwmmins, St. Dogmaels, sent a similar letter at this time, as did Private J. E. Morgan of Bwlchymwtshwr, both from France. Private Morgan's parcel was the second which he had received.

On 15 February 1918 Cllr. John Evans, the Mayor of Cardigan, received other letters from St. Dogmaels men, thanking him for the parcels they had received from Cardigan. Gunner Dan Phillips of Brecon Terrace wrote from France:

*"...I have the greatest pleasure in dropping you a line to thank you very much for the quite unexpected parcel which came to hand quite safely. You can't imagine how it cheers us up when we see a parcel coming from the Mayor. The 'cigs' are most acceptable just now, as the stock has run down. I am ever so pleased with the tin of Christmas pudding and also the sweets and the lovely pair of socks, as the latter are so nice and warm. I only wish I could be home with you at Christmas and bring the word "Peace" with me, but I suppose I can't manage it this time. Thank you and all the kind friends of Cardigan for your kindness towards us out here..."*

Other letters were received that week from Sergeant W. E. Gwynne, the Mill; Private J. Williams, Penrhiw; Private G. James, Penrhiw; and Private W. E. Ladd. Glamorgan Terrace, from France, and Private J. R. Thomas, Netpool, from Limerick, Ireland. Gunner E. H. Phillips of St. Dogmaels wrote from Maltby-le-Marsh, Lincolnshire:

*"...As an old St. Dogmaels boy I wish to thank you most heartily for the nice little Christmas parcel. I am fortunate in being detained in England for such a long period, but although I am in a Home Service Battery on the East Coast, we have to face many dangers, especially when these very frequent air raids take place..."*

On 15 February 1918 the 'Cardigan & Tivy-Side Advertiser' carried the following report of the loss of the S. S. *Traveal*:

*"...Tragedies of the Sea.*

*FOUR LOCAL MEN MISSING.*

*The blackest week which Cardigan and district has suffered in the war as far as the submarine menace is concerned is this week, for news has been received that no less than four local men of the mercantile marine are missing, three of them from one ship. The news is not definite, but it is feared that all hopes of their safety must be abandoned.*

*Their names are:- Captain Willie Williams, of Ivy Cottage, Penybryn, who was chief officer of the S. S. \_\_\_\_\_, owned by Messrs. Edward Hain and Son; Ronald Carroll, son of Sergt. J. F. Carroll, Brondeg, Grange-town, seaman on the same vessel; Benjamin Davies, son of Mrs. Davies, Eagle Inn, Cardigan, an apprentice on the boat; and Garbett Jones, son of Mr. and Mrs. E. Jones, Manchester House, Llechryd, chief steward on board the S. S. \_\_\_\_\_.*

*With regard to the first ship, on which the three local men were on board, it is stated that as far as is known there were only three survivors – the wireless operator, a steward and an apprentice named Williams. The latter, writing to Mrs. Carroll, says that the boat was torpedoed on the fourth instant, and that the last he saw of young Carroll was coming down from the look-out at 2.30, the ship being torpedoed at 3.30 a. m.. "I am afraid", he continues, "that there is no hope, as I saw practically all those who were in the water, and he was not amongst them. The ship went under in two minutes."*

*Mrs. Davies, Eagle Inn, has received a letter in somewhat similar strain.*

*Capt. Willie Williams, whose first trip on the vessel it was, was 52 years of age. Much sympathy is expressed with Mrs. Williams and her son in their anxiety.*

*Both Ronald Carroll and Benjamin Davies were only 19 years of age, and are spoken of as very popular young fellows. This was young Carroll's second experience of the submarine.*

*The owners have written expressing deep sympathy with the families.*

*It was rumoured during the week that another local man was aboard, but this, happily, is not true.*

*Capt. Williams took the place of Capt. Evans, Windsor-terrace, Cardigan, who is now home, and whose brother, it will be remembered, was killed in the great Halifax explosion..."*

On 16 February 1918 D. Horton Davies of the 'Eagle Inn', Castle Street, Bridge End, Cardigan, was declared missing in action.

By 22 February 1918 the Mayor of Cardigan, Cllr. John Evans, had received further letters from recipients of parcels from Cardigan. These included Private W. Lloyd Richards, the Manse, St. Dogmaels, from France, who wrote:

*"...Your welcome parcel received just in the nick of time when we were near the completion of a long spell of stiff work preparatory to going out for a short rest, and consequently the excellent variety of Blighty luxuries contained in the parcel was, more than ever, absolutely 'the thing'. Words on paper cannot express my thanks, but I am sure there is nothing the Cardigan and district lads appreciate so much as the kind thoughts and never-failing energies of the people at home. In the great days to come when old Fritz's whizz bangs and 'minne werfers' are exhausted, we will all congratulate and give hearty and grateful cheers for you..."*

Other letters were received from Private J. Wheeler, Castle Street, Bridge End, Cardigan; Sapper D. G. Morgan of Quar Villa, St. Dogmaels; Private J. Lewis of Glanavon, Tivy-terrace, Bridge End, Cardigan; Driver D. T. Lewis, Glanavon, Tivy-terrace; Private W. G. Davies, High Street, St. Dogmaels; and Private D. S. Llewelyn, St. Dogmaels. All were from France except for Driver D. T. Lewis, who was in Eastbourne, and Private J. Lewis, who wrote the following from hospital in Carmarthen:

*"...I hope you will have the honour during your term of office of seeing the end of this terrible conflict and peace declared..."*

Private D. S. Llewelyn, at the front complained:

*"...At present there is plenty of mud and rain here as usual..."*

Further correspondents by the 8 March 1918 were Corporal G. D. Gwynne of the Mill, St. Dogmaels (...*"Needless to tell you what a comfort a pair of dry socks are in this land of shell-holes and mud, and, of course, nothing beats a Blighty fag..."*) and Gunner J. D. Richards, White Hart, St. Dogmaels (*"...I often think of my dear old birthplace as I lie on my bed in my old dug-out..."*).

By 8 March 1918 a special fund had been started in St. Dogmaels for "Our Home-coming Boys". A bed-spread made by Miss Grace A. Morgan of Church House was to be raffled to raise funds.

On 8 March 1918 it was reported that Corporal D. Morris Davies of Hen-dy Parkypratt, St. Dogmaels, had taken part in the recent storming of the Mount of Olives, receiving wounds, from which he speedily recovered. He had served with the Welsh Regiment from the beginning of the war, seeing action at Gallipoli, where he was wounded and evacuated before returning to the peninsula for another spell of fighting until the withdrawal. He then sailed for Egypt and served in the Holy Land where he was wounded again and sent to Cairo to recover. He was on the banks of the Jordan at the time of the report.

By 15 March 1918 the Mayor had received letters from Private C. Thomas, St. Dogmaels, and Gunner J. G. James, St. Dogmaels, both from France, and from Seaman Griffith Owen, R. N. R., St. Dogmaels, writing from Devonport.

By 22 March 1918 the Mayor had received letters from a number of local men serving away. Private E. W. James of Capel Seion Hill, St. Dogmaels, wrote from Salonika:

*"...I am sorry to say that I am in hospital at present having had an accident to my right hand, but I was lucky to meet a friend from Cardigan (the youngest son of Mr. James Lewis, Pwllhai), and he writes for me and has been very kind to me since we met. I have not met any friends from St. Dogmaels here, but have come across many from Cardigan. I am looking forward to the day when this lot will be over and I shall get back to dear old St. Dogmaels..."*

Private J. Owens from Pantygrwndy-fach, St. Dogmaels, also wrote from Salonika:

*"...we have just come out of the trenches for a few days' rest..."*

Sergeant Davies, husband of Mrs. Davies, Eagle Inn, Castle Street, Bridge End, Cardigan, wrote from France, as did Driver Joseph W. Seal, Sea View, St. Dogmaels.

On 25 March 1918 Corporal John Davies was killed in action. He had been born in St. Dogmaels, but before the outbreak of the war he had moved to West Bromwich. He was killed during the German Spring Offensive in the Havringcourt Wood area. He was 35.

On 1 April 1918 a Concert was given at the National School, St. Dogmaels, raising £20 for "Our Boys" Fund and the Red Cross Society. Mr. T. Ll. Williams, Briars, presided, and Miss Anie Williams, Rocklands, was the accompanist. The performers included Miss Jennie Gwynne Wigley; Misses Lon Wigley and Alwyn Green; Miss Kitty Gruffydd; Master John Hughes; Miss Beryl Baker; Master Howard Thomas; Miss Jessie Davies; Miss M. A. Lampard; and Miss Polly Davies. The arrangements were carried out by Miss Alice Bowen-Jones, Marine Villa. Mr. B. O. Gwynne gave a vote of thanks.

On 2 April 1918 Private Benjamin O. James was killed in action during the German Spring Offensive. He was born at St. Dogmaels but moved to Caerau near Cardiff a year or two before the war began. Benjamin was aged 25. Two of his brothers also served in the war, one of them winning the Military Medal.

In April 1918 Private J. James of Angel House, Mill Street, St. Dogmaels, was in France.

In April 1918 D. Horton Davies of the 'Eagle Inn', Castle Street, Bridge End, Cardigan, was discovered to be a prisoner of war in Germany.

By 26 April 1918 further letters to the Mayor had come from Private J. James, Maesyffynnon, St. Dogmaels; Sapper D. G. Morgan, Quar Villa, St. Dogmaels; Driver C. Thomas, St. Dogmaels; Private John Vittle, Nantperchellan, St. Dogmaels (wrote from a hospital); Private D. L. James, Cwmins, St. Dogmaels; Private J. James, Angel House, Mill Street, St. Dogmaels; and Private T. Harries, Castle Street, Bridge end, Cardigan. All were from France. Seaman David G. Stephens, Cwm, St. Dogmaels also wrote from the navy.

On 3 May 1918 J. Morgan of Islwyn, St. Dogmaels was on active service in France; Rifleman G. J. Davies, Bronwydd Villa, St. Dogmaels was in Farnborough; and Seaman John Stephens of Alltfach, St. Dogmaels, was in Devonport.

On 3 May 1918 Mr. Tom Phillips of Penoca. Canada, died from gunshot wounds in the back and left shoulder in France. His uncle was Mr. Dan Phillips, blacksmith, of No. 9 Castle Street, Bridge End, Cardigan, and Tom had recently visited the town whilst on leave.

On 31 May 1918 the following extracts from the letters of St. Dogmaels men appeared in the '*Cardigan & Tivy-Side Advertiser*':

Private Cliff Jones, Glantivy, wrote from Salonika:

*"...I have not met any of my pre-war pals since my arrival in Salonika two years ago..."*

Second Air-Mechanic J. Davies, Velindre House, wrote from France:

*"...We have been very busy these last two months as you may expect, having had to shift quarters more than once..."*

Farrier-Sergeant Jack Rees, Tivy-Terrace, Bridge End, Cardigan, wrote from Palestine:

*"...I occasionally come across some of the "boys" out here, and they feel in the pink of condition and fit for anything. There is one thing that I would like to mention. In some of the papers we see out here some of them say it was one lot and others say another lot that entered both Bethlehem and Jerusalem first. I may tell you without fear of contradiction that it was the Welsh troops that entered first, because our battery was the first 'guns' to enter, and in front of us alone were the lot to which the Cardigan boys belong, and when I watched the Red Dragon carried up the Mount of Olives I was proud to think that some of my chums were close to that banner..."*

Private T. Williams, Brodawel, wrote from France; Private D. Alun Gruffydd, Abigail House, wrote from the City of the Caliphs; and Sapper D. W. Bowen wrote from Palestine.

On 31 May 1918 it was reported that Messrs. Albert M. Lewis of Meiros Hall, Drefach Velindre, was intending to go into business with Mr. T. Ll. Williams, Briars, St. Dogmaels, in making Army shirts at the New Mill (Henlana Mills). It was envisaged that this would be a good local employer, and operations were expected to commence in about three weeks. It was also intended to start a new industrial activity in the old mill, Teifi Stores.

By 31 May 1918 Mrs. Rees of Waunwhiod, St. Dogmaels, had been notified by the War Office that her son, Private D. Ladd Rees, had been admitted to hospital in Rouen suffering from severe gunshot wounds in the right thigh. Private Rees had since been removed to the Southern General Hospital, Edgbaston, Birmingham, and was progressing favourably.

By 31 May 1918 Miss M. Morris of Grove Terrace, St. Dogmaels, had received news that her brother, Driver J. R. Morris, A. S. C., had been wounded and was suffering from shell shock, and had been admitted into a hospital in France.

On 7 June 1918 Private George James of St. Dogmaels was killed at Bligny Hill, aged 19. Two of his brothers were on active service – one in France and another in Salonika.

By 14 June 1918 Private Dewi Alun Gruffydd of Abigail House, High Street, St. Dogmaels, had left Baghdad, where he had been on active service for about two years. He had been ordered to report to the Cadet Corps at Bangalore, India. Since being in Mesopotamia he had been seriously ill with malaria on two occasions.

By 14 June 1918 D. Morris Davies, late of Hen Dy, Parkypratt, St. Dogmaels, had been promoted to the rank of Sergeant in the Welsh Battalion in Palestine, having been involved in the storming of the Mount of Olives. He was in hospital with a fractured foot at that time.

On 28 June 1918, owing to increasing food shortages the St. Dogmaels fishermen were permitted to use the outlawed "shot fawr" as a means to increase their catches of salmon.

In 1918 Private J. D. Joseph of Bryncws, St. Dogmaels was on active service.

On 3 July 1918 Private Benjamin Richards of Union Terrace, Glanteifon, St Dogmaels, died a Prisoner of War in Freiberg, Germany, aged 26, possibly of wounds received in the fighting, aged 26.

In July 1918 Lance-Corporal J. Lloyd James, M. M., of Tyrhedyn, High Street, St. Dogmaels, was seriously gassed.

On 18 July 1918 Private David Clifford Jones died. He was born at St. Dogmaels and served in Mesopotamia, where he died of sickness, aged 20.

On 2 August 1918 it was reported that a transport ship commanded by Captain George Tudor of Cardigan, with George Evans of St. Dogmaels as his Second Officer, had recently seen some action. She left port on June 29 at 11 o'clock in the evening and sailed along the Spanish coast. At about 7 o'clock the following morning a torpedo was spotted speeding towards them. The helm was put hard over and the missile passed by harmlessly, within just a few feet of the ship. A French vessel in the area had also had a near miss, and the two survivors headed in to port. The following day the transport ship set sail again in a convoy and the journey passed uneventfully until 4 July. On that date an alarm sounded and a German submarine was spotted about 1500 yards away, with the periscope showing above water. A shot was fired from the transport and another from the French ship, blowing the submarine sky high. The following day, having anchored overnight, she sailed alone bound for England, when, at about 11 o'clock in the morning, a submarine was sighted on the starboard bow. They fired a round, which missed, and then attempted to ram the submarine, which dived out of sight. Minutes later the submarine re-appeared. The Welsh gunner fired another round and struck the submarine, which was seen no more.

On 12 September 1918 Thomas Davies of St. Dogmaels, was killed. He was a deck-hand on board H. M. S. *Sarnia* when a torpedo from a German submarine sank her. Thomas was drowned, aged 28.

On 18 September 1918 Private John Owen of St. Dogmaels was killed in action at Salonika, aged 21, where his battalion was taking part in an assault on Grand Curonne on the Macedonian front line, which almost wiped them out.

On 20 September 1918 Gunner William Dunstone of St. Dogmaels died of sickness.

On 20 September 1918 Gunner Francis John Lloyd of St. Dogmaels died of wounds aged 24.

On 15 October 1918 Private Arthur Jones of St. Dogmaels died of sickness aged 20, as a prisoner of war held near Berlin.

On 24 October 1918 John Ernest Williams of Green Meadow, the Second Officer of S. S. '*Denby Grange*' was lost when the ship sank after a collision en route from Newport to Spezia with a cargo of coal.

On 31 October 1918 Sapper David Lloyd of St. Dogmaels was killed. He was engaged in widening a road leading to the front near Bruay when the Germans fired a shell into the middle of the working party. David and an officer were killed by the blast. He was 34 years old.

By 8 November 1918 an "Our Day" fund-raising event in St. Dogmaels had raised £20 for the Red Cross Society.

By 8 November 1918 Mrs. Williams of Green Meadow, St. Dogmaels, had been informed that the ship upon which her son, Ernie Williams, served, had been lost in a collision in the Mediterranean. The ship sank within a few minutes, but all of the crew were saved.

On 11 November 1918, at 11 minutes past 11 o'clock in the morning, the end of World War I finally arrived, when the armistice was signed, officially ending hostilities. In St. Dogmaels the school bells were rung and the streets were festooned with flags. Thanksgiving services were held all week at Bethsaida Baptist Chapel.

## AFTER THE WAR.

On 15 November 1918 it was reported that Private Joseph B. Peregrine, the son of Sergeant-Major and Mrs Peregrine, Garden Cottage, Castle Street, Bridge End, Cardigan, had been gassed during the recent fighting in France. He was making progress at a Base Hospital. He had been attached to the First Battalion K. O. Y. L. Infantry.

On 15 November 1918 it was also reported that Private William Morgan Richards, son of Mr. Richards, Rosario Villa, St. Dogmaels, had been wounded in the leg during the recent fighting in France, and was being treated in a French hospital.

On 15 November 1918 Sergeant W. D. Thomas was in a V. A. D. Hospital in Devon suffering from wounds received in action in the recent fighting. He was progressing satisfactorily.

By 29 November 1918 Sergeant G. D. Gwynne, youngest son of Mrs. Gwynne, The Mill, St. Dogmaels, had been awarded the Military Medal for bravery in action in France. On 24 September 1918, the night before the attack, he laid tapes in No Man's Land to guide the attacking party. Before and during the attack he kept headquarters informed of the position of the battalion throughout the day, although slightly wounded.

William Lloyd Richards, son of Rev. David Richards, Minister of Capel Seion, St. Dogmaels, was severely gassed in 1918, and was sent home. He never recovered from the incident, and died of long-term effects of gas poisoning at his home on 6 October 1919 aged 22. He was buried at Glanrhyd Calvinistic Methodist Chapel cemetery, Llantood.

On 19 May 1920 Clifford D. Jones of Glantivy, St. Dogmaels died. During the war he had spent more than three years in Salonika with the Royal Army Medical Corps. He died of a brief illness in London two days before attaining the age of 24. He is buried in St. Dogmaels. It seems likely that his early death was due to illness contracted whilst in service.