



# I Lived Here.....



## Bevlin

William Davies 307169  
Private 2<sup>nd</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Lancashire Fusiliers  
Died 9 October 1917, aged 35

### *Family background*

William Davies was baptised on 18 June 1882, the son of Lewis Davies of Bevlin by his second wife Ann, daughter of Thomas Parry. William's grandmother, Elizabeth Davies, had lived her entire life at Bevlin, dying in 1849 at the age of 100.

Following his marriage to Sophia Maria Willday, daughter of Ralph Willday of The Folly, they made their home at Abbey Stream, Ludchurch.

William's brother, James Davies, known to everyone as 'Jim Sparrow', lived for most of his life at Sparrows Nest, Amroth.

### *War service*

William Davies enlisted for war service at Carmarthen, probably in 1917, joining the 2<sup>nd</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Battalion Lancashire Fusiliers as a private. His battalion formed part of the 197<sup>th</sup> Brigade, a section of the 66<sup>th</sup> Division, which was to be significantly engaged in the third Battle of Ypres - Passchendaele - later that year.

On 9 October 1917 the 66<sup>th</sup> Division attacked north of the village of Broodseinde and north east of Zonnebeke, in an attempt to secure the ridge that commanded the village of Passchendaele. The men went into battle exhausted, following a gruelling twelve-hour march through the muddy Flanders terrain which delayed their arrival. In addition, the German wire entanglements which should have been destroyed were still intact, and many of the men lost their lives on this wire. Many others were killed by their own artillery falling short - unfortunately a common military blunder, with fatal consequences for the ordinary infantryman.

Although Pt Davies's brigade made some progress on the right where the ground was drier, generally the attack was a failure, having gained only 500 yards of mud-holes at the sacrifice of 3,119 men killed, missing or wounded. It is probable that Pt Davies died in the early stages of the attack, and his body was later recovered and buried in the Zonnebeke area behind the battle lines. Those who were casualties later in the day, including

Mansell Bevan from St Issells and Thomas Evans of Brawdy, were never recovered and are recorded as having no known grave.

Together with many of his fallen comrades, Pt William Davies's body was later exhumed from the battlefield and reburied at Butts New Cemetery, Polygon Wood, Belgium.

*Family memorial*

A roodscreen was erected by his widow in St Elydir's Church, Ludchurch, with a brass plate commemorating Private William Davies who 'died of wounds in France'.



# I Lived Here.....



## East Llanteg

Hugh Slader Glanville 320229 588  
Private 24<sup>th</sup> Welsh Regiment 1917  
died 11 November 1917, aged 20

### *Family background*

Hugh Slader Glanville was born at The Retreat, Amroth, in 1897, the son of James Cocks Slader Glanville. His father had been born at Pembroke Dock, and his mother, Anna Maria *née* Williams, in Amroth parish. Soon after his birth the family moved to live at East Llanteg.

### *War service*

Hugh Slader Glanville served as a private with the 24<sup>th</sup> Battalion Welsh Regiment, which had originated as the Pembrokeshire Yeomanry formed at Tenby in August 1914.

Sometime between this date and November 1915, Pt Glanville enlisted at Carmarthen, possibly as a mounted soldier. His company arrived in Egypt in March 1916 to help fight the Turks - whose occupation of Palestine was threatening British possessions in the region - and by February the following year had joined with the Glamorgan Yeomanry to form the 24<sup>th</sup> Welsh Battalion, joining the 231<sup>st</sup> Brigade as part of the 74<sup>th</sup> Division. This Division played a vital role in the struggle to secure Gaza and prevent the Turks taking Egypt. Their first major assault was the Second Battle of Gaza on April 1917, followed later that year by the Third Battle of Gaza, which took place between 27 October and 7 November.

The attack reached its height on 31 October, when the 74<sup>th</sup> Division attacked on the Gaza to Beersheba road with the aim of securing Beersheba. It seems probable that Pt Glanville received his injuries in this attack. He died of his wounds some days later on 11 November after Beersheba had been successfully taken, and was buried in the military cemetery there with his other fallen comrades.

Beersheba now lies within the modern state of Israel, about 50 miles south of Jerusalem.

### *Memorials*

Hugh Slader Glanville is commemorated on a memorial tablet in Crunwera Church, and on the grammar school memorial at Greenhill Secondary School, Tenby.



# I Lived Here.....



## Ruelwall

John Lloyd 101679

Private, 1<sup>st</sup> Bn., Canadian Pioneers

died 10<sup>th</sup> November 1918, aged 44

### *Family background*

John Lloyd was born at East Pool, [Eglwysgummin](#), in 1873, the son of Walter and Mary Lloyd. John married Sarah Jane James from [Ruelwall, Llonteg](#) in 1900 at [Crunwerc](#) Church.

### *War service*

John Lloyd joined the 66<sup>th</sup> Overseas Battalion on 22 Feb 1916, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.

John had reached France on 6 July 1916 and was sent to 1st Canadian Entrenching Battalion in the field. John paraded sick on 5 December 1916 after "exposure to shell fire on the Somme" and was hospitalised for 10 days with V.D.H. (Vascular Disease of the Heart) and epilepsy, before [rejoining](#) his unit. On 3rd September 1917 John paraded sick again at [Vimy Ridge](#). He had severe pains in his legs and chest, and had suffered with heart pain and palpitations for some months prior to this. He was immediately sent back to base hospital, and then invalided back to England. He was in [Etaples](#) (12 days), Bethnal Green (12 days), Bromley (10 days), Bushy Park (16 days), Buxton (2 months), and Liverpool (5 weeks). He was then invalided back to Canada on the [S.S. Llandoverly Castle](#) on 28th February 1918, to Halifax. He was in hospital in [Wetaskiwin](#), Alberta for 2 months where he received further treatment before being discharged from service on 17th Aug 1918 at Calgary, with the intention of living in Edmonton at the Great War Veteran's Association (a veterans' home). Sadly however John died on 10th Nov 1918. Death was attributed to military service.

In 1925 a scroll and plaque were sent to his widow.

### *Memorials*

John Lloyd is now remembered with honour in the Canadian Book of Remembrance. Finally, after 94 years, John received official recognition as a War Casualty in 2012.

John Lloyd is also recorded on the [Lampeter Velfrey War Memorial](#).

John Lloyd is buried at [Llovet](#), Alberta.



# I Lived Here.....



## Ruellwall

James Edgar John Mason 143988  
Stoker 1<sup>st</sup> Class H.M.Landing Barge Oil no.6  
died 14 June 1944, aged 22

John Mason was born at Lawrenny on 3 September 1921, the son of William and Catherine Mary Mason. He married Winifred Mabel Eileen Allen of Ruellwall, Llanteg, and had two children, Barbara and Alan. Before being called up for service in March 1943 he had worked at Trecwn, and for Whimpeys at Templeton Air Field.

### *War service*

John Mason joined the Royal Navy in 1943 as a stoker. He was promoted to Stoker 1<sup>st</sup> Class the following year, serving on H.M.Landing Barge Oil no.6 during the Normandy invasions in June 1944.

Some 400 of these barges, carrying 3,500 men, took part in the Normandy landings. They made up only ten per cent of the amphibious vessels, but their role was nevertheless of major importance: apart from providing fuel, water, food, and repairs and maintenance to the many hundreds of landing craft serving both the American and British beachheads, their cargo-carrying and beach-landing capabilities enabled them to move vast amounts of supplies from ship to shore.

The Landing Barge Oil vessels were equipped with a cylindrical 9,000 gallon capacity tank with two five-inch hand pumps. Each barge would have weighed between 150 and 200 tons and was armed with twin Lewis guns and had a crew of five. They were an unpopular posting because they were considered to be floating time bombs.

Stoker Mason, on Landing Barge Oil no.6, sailed with the 34<sup>th</sup> Landing Barge (Supply and Repair) flotilla from Poole in Dorset, heading for the American Utah beach in Normandy. Records show that on D+8 (14<sup>th</sup> June) a stoker was lost, with no known grave. John Mason appears to have been the only casualty on that barge.

### *Memorials*

John Mason's name is remembered with honour on the Chatham Naval Memorial in Kent, which commemorates members of the Royal Navy who have no known grave.