

Cofio dros Heddwch

Mae Llyfr Cofio Cenedlaethol Cymru o'r Rhyfel Byd Cyntaf yn dal enwau 35,000 o filwyr – yn ddynion a merched – a roddodd eu bywydau yn y Rhyfel. Mae'r unigolion yma wedi eu rhestru fesul catrawd a bataliwn ochr yn ochr ag enwau'r rhai a allai'n hawdd fod wedi marw gyda nhw.

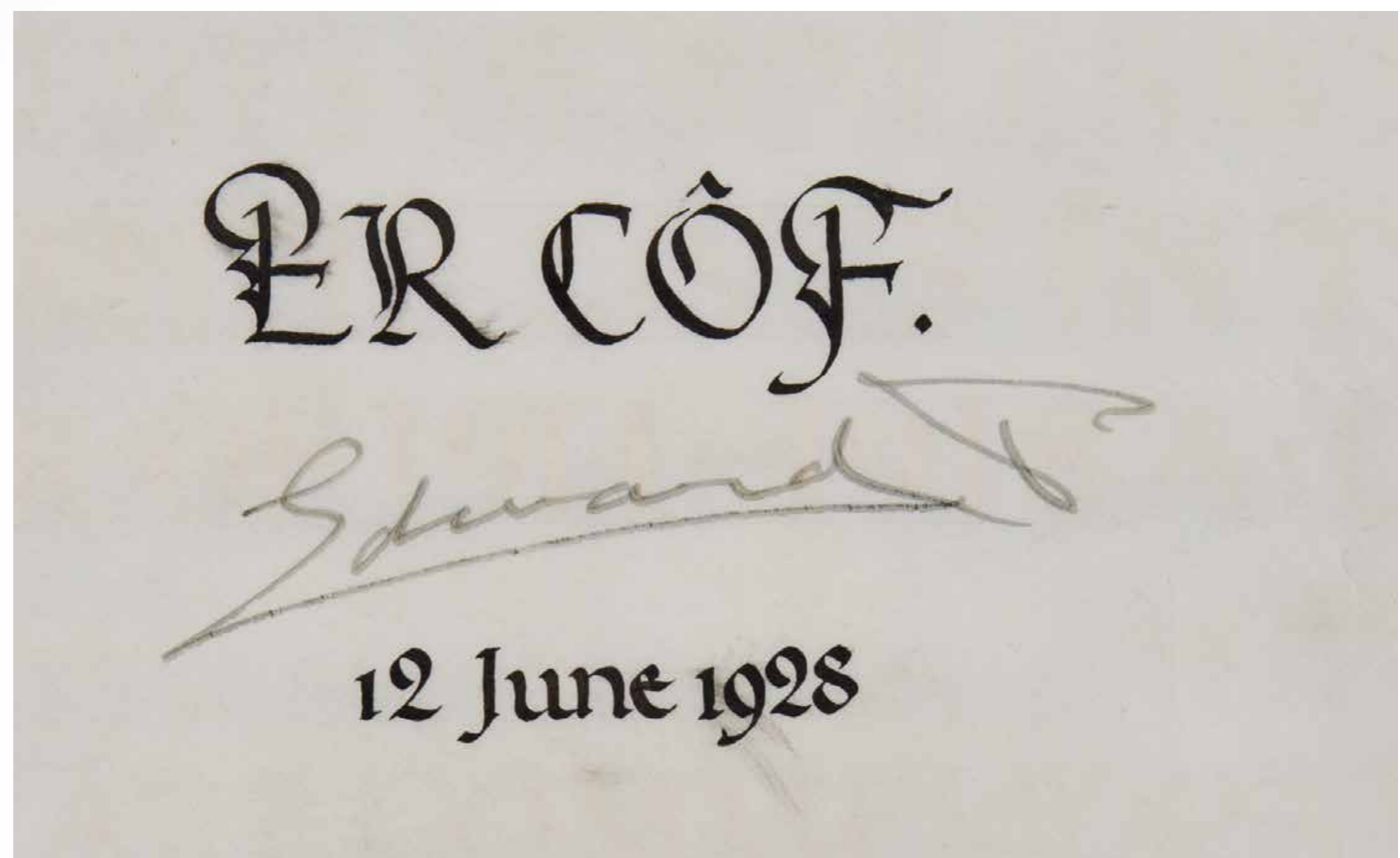
Ddechrau'r dauddegau, yn dilyn ymgyrch yn y Western Mail, codwyd digon o arian i godi Cofeb Ryfel Genedlaethol i Gymru. Ar ôl cryn drafod, cafodd ei lleoli ym Mharc Cathays, Caerdydd. Penderfynodd y pwyllgor, gan nad oedd enwau wedi'u nodi ar y gofeb ei hunan, y byddai 'rhestr anrhydedd' yn cael ei chreu, a dyma yw Llyfr y Cofio. Yn y seremoni ar gyfer cysegru'r gofeb ym 1928, cafodd y Llyfr ei lofnodi gan Edward, Tywysog Cymru.

Mae'r arddangosfa yma'n adrodd hanes y Llyfr, rhai o'r enwau sydd ynddo, a sut ei defnyddiwyd er mwyn cofio dros heddwch.



Cofeb Ryfel Cenedlaethol Cymru, Caerdydd.

The Welsh National War Memorial, Cardiff



Remembering for Peace

The Welsh National Book of Remembrance for the First World War holds the names of 35,000 servicemen and women who gave their lives in the war. These individuals are listed according to regiment and battalion alongside the names of those who might well have died by their side.

In the early 1920s, following a campaign in the Western Mail, enough money was raised to build a Welsh National War Memorial. After much debate it was located in Cathays Park, Cardiff. The committee decided that as there were no names listed on the monument itself, a 'roll of honour' would be created, which became this Book of Remembrance. At the ceremony for the dedication of the memorial 1928, the Book was ceremoniously signed 'Er Cof [In Memoriam] by Edward, Prince of Wales.

This exhibition tells the story of the Book, some of the names within, and how it has been used to remember for peace.





Cofnod cywir neu arwydd symbolaidd?

I lawer, mae arwyddocâd symbolaidd y Llyfr yr un mor bwysig â'i swyddogaeth fel cofnod o'r rhai a syrthiodd. Yn seremoni dadorchuddio Cofeb Genedlaethol Cymru, nododd y rhaglen:

"The collection of the names... was a work of considerable magnitude... and although the list can scarcely be claimed to be absolutely accurate and complete the greatest care has been taken to make it so."

Gwaith y ceinlythrennydd uchel ei barch Graily Hewitt oedd dyluniad cywain y Llyfr, a hynny yn ei weithdy yn Lincoln's Inn, Llundain. Mae pob enw wedi ei ysgrifennu'n unigol gyda llaw gain, ac mae'r technegau goreuro yn adfywiad o'r technegau a ddefnyddid yn yr Oesoedd Canol, gan droi rhestr foel o enwau yn gelfwaith.

Yn ddiweddar cafodd y Llyfr ei ddefnyddio'n symbolaidd gan y Llyng Brydeinig yng Ngŵyl y Cofio Cymru er mwyn cynrychioli pawb sydd wedi ymladd ac wedi marw mewn brwydr.

Recently the Book has been used symbolically by the British Legion in the Welsh Festival of Remembrance to represent all those who have fought and died in battle.

Accurate record or symbolic gesture?

The symbolic significance of the Book is often seen to be as important as its role as a record of the fallen. At the unveiling ceremony of the Welsh National Memorial, the programme stated:

"The collection of the names... was a work of considerable magnitude... and although the list can scarcely be claimed to be absolutely accurate and complete the greatest care has been taken to make it so."

The elaborate design of the Book was the work of the respected calligrapher Graily Hewitt at his workshop in Lincoln's Inn, London. Each name has been individually written in calligraphic hand, and the gilding techniques are a revival of those used in the Middle Ages, turning what is essentially a list of names into a work of art.



Symbol o'r Cofio yn y Deml Heddwch

Ar 23 Tachwedd 1938, trodd Minnie James o'r Dowlais yr allwedd i agor y Deml Heddwch ac Iechyd ym Mharc Cathays, Caerdydd. Roedd hi'n cynrychioli mamau Cymru a oedd yn galaru ar ôl y rhyfel - roedd hi wedi colli tri mab yn y rhyfel. Yn cyflwyno'r adeilad, dywedodd Mrs James:

"[it is] a constant reminder of the debt we owe to the millions who sacrificed their all in a great cause and as a symbol of our determination to strive for justice and peace".

Cafodd Llyfr y Cofio Cenedlaethol Cymru, a oedd tan hynny wedi ei gadw yn Amgueddfa Genedlaethol Cymru, ei arddangos mewn casyn o wydr ac efydd Ffrengig ar bedestal o farmor Belgaidd mewn 'crypt' o dan yr adeilad.

Ariannwyd y Deml gan Arglwydd Davies Llandinam: gwleidydd, dyngarwr a rhyngwladolwr. Roedd ef ei hunan wedi bod yn dyst i wrthdaro yn ffosydd y Somme, a chredai mai'r ffordd i osgoi tywallt gwaed mewn rhyfel byd arall oedd drwy gydweithredu rhyngwladol, yn enwedig drwy waith Cynghair y Cenhedloedd.



Y Deml Heddwch ac Iechyd, Caerdydd.

The Temple of Peace and Health, Cardiff.

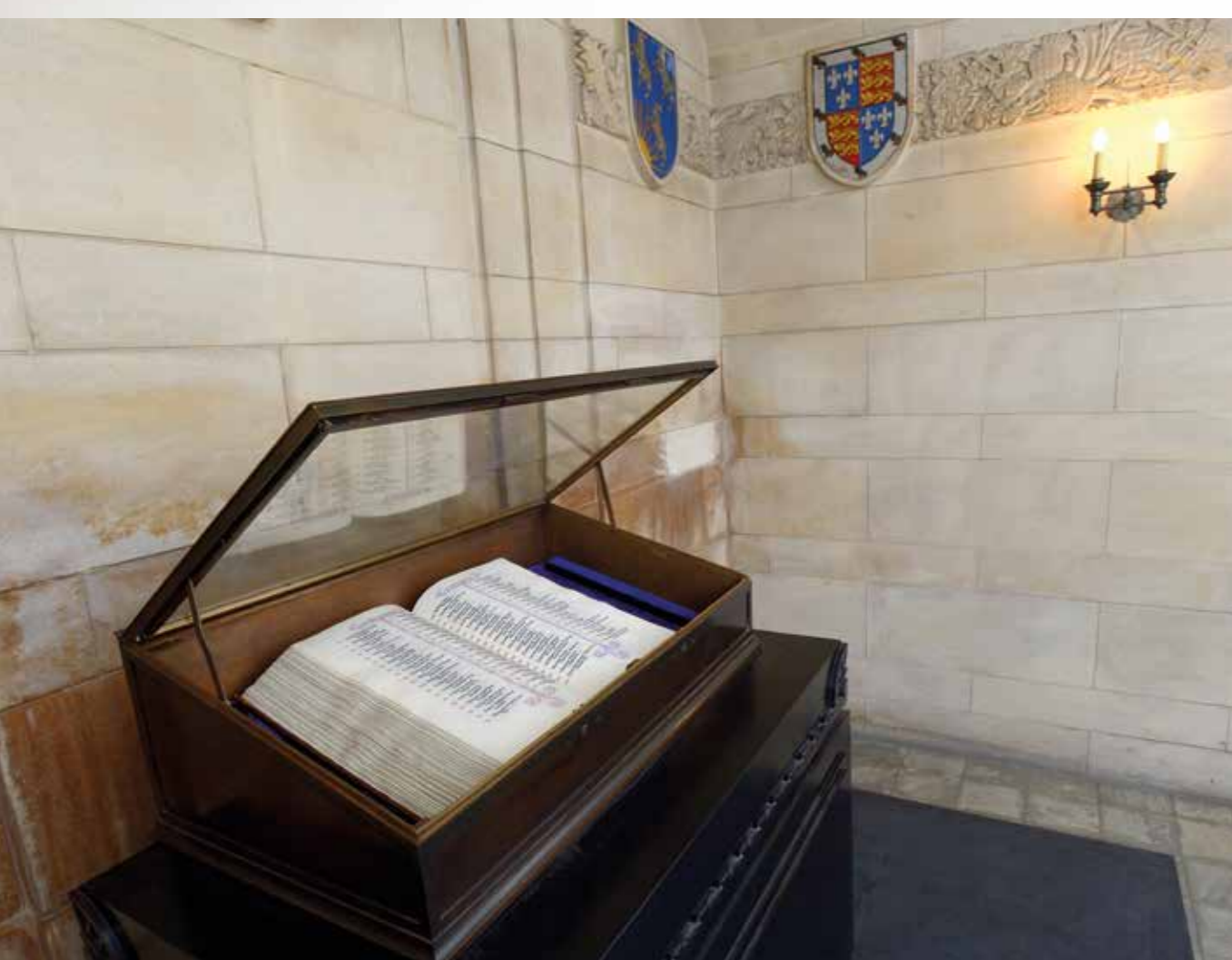
A product of war in the Temple of Peace

On 23 November 1938, Minnie James of Dowlais turned the key to open the Temple of Peace and Health in Cathays Park, Cardiff. She was representing the war-bereaved mothers of Wales - she had lost three sons in the war. In dedicating the building, Mrs James said:

"[it is] a constant reminder of the debt we owe to the millions who sacrificed their all in a great cause and as a symbol of our determination to strive for justice and peace".

The Welsh National Book of Remembrance, which until then had been held at the National Museum of Wales, was placed on display in a glass and French bronze case on a pedestal of Belgian marble in a 'crypt' beneath the building.

The Temple was funded by Lord Davies of Llandinam: a politician, philanthropist and internationalist. He had witnessed conflict first-hand in the trenches of the Somme, and believed that the way to avoid the bloodshed of another world war was through international cooperation, in particular through the work of the League of Nations.



Y crypt o dan y Deml.

The crypt beneath the Temple.



Lord Davies, ym mlynnyddoedd cynnar y Rhyfel Byd Cyntaf.

Lord Davies, in the early years of the First World War.





Yr hanesion y tu ôl i'r enwau...

Y Preifat Trevor Lewis, Corfflu Meddygol Brenhinol y Fyddin

Ganed Trevor yn Aberystwyth ac aeth i Ysgol y Sir/Ysgol Ardwyn, Aberystwyth. Cafodd ei benodi'n llyfrgellydd dan hyfforddiant yn Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru ym mis Awst 1912.

Ar 27 Hydref 1915 gadawodd y Llyfrgell gan ymuno â Chorfflu Meddygol Brenhinol y Fyddin. Cafodd ei anafu'n wael yn Ffrainc ar 8 Awst 1916. Fe'i trosglwyddwyd i Ysbyty Hampstead ond bu farw ar 20 Medi yn ugain oed.

Ei angladd ef oedd yr un cyntaf yn Aberystwyth yn sgil y Rhyfel Mawr, ac adroddwyd yr hanes yn y Cambrian News:

"Being the first local funeral of a hero from the front, considerable interest was taken and there was general manifestation of sorrow, the streets being lined along the route and the blinds of houses and businesses were drawn."

Fe'i claddwyd ym mynwent y dref.

The stories behind the names...

Private Trevor Lewis, Royal Army Medical Corps

Trevor was born in Aberystwyth and attended the County School/Ardwyn School, Aberystwyth. He was appointed as a trainee librarian at the National Library of Wales in August 1912.

On 27 October 1915 he left the Library to join the Royal Army Medical Corps. He was badly injured in France on 8 August 1916. He was transferred to Hampstead Hospital but died on 20 September at the age of twenty.

His funeral was the first in Aberystwyth resulting from the Great War, and the story was reported in the Cambrian News:

"Being the first local funeral of a hero from the front, considerable interest was taken and there was general manifestation of sorrow, the streets being lined along the route and the blinds of houses and businesses were drawn."

He was buried in the town cemetery.





Yr hanesion y tu ôl i'r enwau...

Y Preifat Edward Hugh Evans, Catrawd Swydd Gaer

Ganed Edward yng Nghorris, ond symudodd y teulu i Nantceiro Lodge ar gyrion pentref Llanbadarn Fawr. Dechreuodd Edward ei waith fel clerch iau yn Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru ym mis Chwefror 1915. Erbyn mis Mawrth 1917 roedd wedi ymuno â Chatrawd Swydd Gaer yn Aberhonddu. Cafodd ei drosglwyddo i Ffrainc ym mis Ionawr 1918 a bu farw ar 26 Mawrth 1918 yn 19 oed.

Nid oes bedd iddo ond enwir ef ar Gofeb Pozières yn y Somme.

The stories behind the names...

Private Edward Hugh Evans, Cheshire Regiment

Edward was born in Corris, but the family moved to Nantceiro Lodge on the outskirts of Llanbadarn Fawr. Edward began his work as a junior clerk at the National Library of Wales in February 1915. By March 1917 he had joined the Cheshire Regiment in Brecon. He was transferred to France in January 1918 and died on 26 March 1918 at age 19.

There is no grave for him, but he is named on Pozières Memorial in the Somme.





Yr hanesion y tu ôl i'r enwau...

Y Preifat David Owen Roberts, Catrawd y Brenin (Lerpwl)

Wedi'i eni ym 1898, David Owen Roberts oedd yr ieuengaf o bedwar o blant a fagwyd ar dyddyn y teulu, Cae'r Gors, yng nghymuned chwarelyddol Rhosgadfan, Sir Gaernarfon. Roedd yn frawd bach i'r awdur Kate Roberts, a thrwy ei archif hi, sydd yn Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru, y gwyddom am hanes David.

Cyn y rhyfel, roedd David wedi gweithio fel gwas ffarm ym Maesincla, Bangor. Ymunodd â'r fyddin yn 18 oed ym mis Ionawr 1916 ac anfonwyd ef gyda'i fataliwn i ymladd yn ymgyrch Salonika. Bu farw o'i glwyfau mewn ysbyty ym Malta ar 27 Gorffennaf 1917. Dywedodd Kate Roberts mai marwolaeth ei brawd ac anafiadau brawd arall, Evan, a'i hysbrydolodd i ddechrau llenyddia, fel modd o ymdopi â'i cholled.

The stories behind the names...

Private David Owen Roberts, The King's (Liverpool Regiment)

Born in 1898, David Owen Roberts was the youngest of four children who grew up on the family's smallholding, Cae'r Gors, in the slate mining community of Rhosgadfan, Caernarfonshire. His elder sister was the author Kate Roberts, and it is through her archive, held at the National Library of Wales, that we know David's story.

Before the war, David had worked as a farmhand at Maesincla, Bangor. He joined the army at the age of 18 in January 1916 and was sent with his battalion to fight in the Salonika campaign. He died of his wounds in a hospital in Malta on 27 July 1917. Kate Roberts is quoted as saying that it was the death of her brother and the injuries of another brother, Evan, that first inspired her to start writing, as a means of coping with her loss.





Yr hanesion y tu ôl i'r enwau...

Y Capten David Jones, Y Gatrawd Gymreig

Ganed y Capten David Jones yn Llanddewi-Brefi, ger Tregaron, ym 1893. Ar ôl gadael Ysgol y Sir Tregaron, bu'n dysgu yn Llanddewi-Brefi a Phontrhydfendigaid, cyn mynd i Brifysgol Aberystwyth. Tra'n y Brifysgol, roedd yn aelod o'r Corfflu Hyfforddi Swyddogion, ac ymunodd â'r fyddin ym 1916. Mewn llythyr adref at ei fam, mae'n esbonio pam roedd yn teimlo bod rhaid iddo ymrestru:

"Cofiwch da chwi fod y wlad hon bob munud yn disgwyl yr Almaenwyr i lanio yma, wedi hyny ni fyddwn ond fel y Belgians drueiniaid a'u cartrefi wedi eu rhwygo. Credaf ymhellach y buasai'n well gennych golli un mab na cholli'r holl deulu."

Ymladdodd Capten Jones yn ymgyrch Coed Mametz, a bu farw ar 12 Gorffennaf 1916, yn 25 oed. Does dim bedd hysbys iddo, ond mae ei enw ar Gofeb Thiepval i golledigion y Somme.

The stories behind the names...

Captain David Jones, The Welch Regiment

Captain David Jones was born in Llanddewi-Brefi, near Tregaron in 1893. After leaving Tregaron County School, he held teaching posts in Llanddewi-Brefi and Pontrhydfendigaid, before going to Aberystwyth University. While he was at University he was a member of the Officer Training Corps, and joined the army in 1916. In a letter home to his mother, he explains why he felt compelled to enlist:

"Cofiwch da chwi fod y wlad hon bob munud yn disgwyl yr Almaenwyr i lanio yma, wedi hyny ni fyddwn ond fel y Belgians drueiniaid a'u cartrefi wedi eu rhwygo. Credaf ymhellach y buasai'n well gennych golli un mab na cholli'r holl deulu."

[“Do remember that this country is expecting the Germans to land at any minute, then we would be like the poor Belgians and their homes torn apart. I further believe that you would prefer to lose one son than lose the whole family.”]

Captain Jones fought in the Mametz Wood offensive, and died on 12 July 1916, aged 25. He has no known grave, but his name is on the Thiepval Memorial to the missing of the Somme.





Willie gyda'i wraig, Bella.

Willie with his wife, Bella.

Yr hanesion y tu ôl i'r enwau...

Yr Ail Beiriannydd Alfred William Thomas, Y Llang Fasnachol. Tad-cu Gwenno.

Mae Llyfr y Cofio wedi ei ddigido gan Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru, fel bod modd ei weld ar-lein. Er mwyn ei gwneud yn haws canfod unigolion, mae dros 100 o wirfoddolwyr wedi bod yn brysur yn trawsgrifio ac yn tagio'r enwau – gweithred ddigidol o goffáu fel bod modd cofio pob person ar gyfer y cenedlaethau a ddaw.

Un o'r gwirfoddolwyr oedd Gwenno Watkin, a ddaeth o hyd i enw ei thad-cu, Alfred William Thomas, wrth drawsgrifio.

“Roedd fy nhad-cu yn beiriannydd yn y Llynges Fasnachol, ac fe gafodd ei long, yr S.S. Memnon, ei suddo. Fel teulu fe fydden ni'n arfer dweud ei fod wedi marw yn y rhyfel, ond dim mwy na hynny. Wrth chwilio drwy hen focsys, fe ddes i o hyd i rai o'i fedalau, ac wrth gymryd rhan yn y gwaith trawsgrifio fe ges i'r awydd i wneud rhagor o ymchwil i'w hanes”.

The stories behind the names...

Second Engineer Alfred William Thomas, The Merchant Navy. Gwenno's grandfather.

The National Book of Remembrance has been digitised by the National Library of Wales, so that it can be accessed online. To make it easier to find individuals, over 100 volunteers have been busy transcribing and tagging the names – a digital act of remembrance so that each person can be remembered for generations to come.

One of those volunteers was Gwenno Watkin, who found the name of her grandfather, Alfred William Thomas, as she was transcribing.

“Roedd fy nhad-cu yn beiriannydd yn y Llynges Fasnachol, ac fe gafodd ei long, yr S.S. Memnon, ei suddo. Fel teulu fe fydden ni'n arfer dweud ei fod wedi marw yn y rhyfel, ond dim mwy na hynny. Wrth chwilio drwy hen focsys, fe ddes i o hyd i rai o'i fedalau, ac wrth gymryd rhan yn y gwaith trawsgrifio fe ges i'r awydd i wneud rhagor o ymchwil i'w hanes”.

[“My grandfather was an engineer in the Merchant Navy and his ship, the S.S. Memnon was torpedoed. As a family we always mentioned him as having died in the war, but nothing more. Looking through old boxes, I found some of his medals, and taking part in the transcription prompted me to do some more research into his story”.]



*Gwenno Watkin,
gwirfoddolwraig yn Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru.*

Gwenno Watkin, a National Library of Wales volunteer.



Cofio dros Heddwch

Ar ôl y Rhyfel Byd Cyntaf, gadawyd teuluoedd a chymunedau ledled Cymru mewn galar ac wedi'u hysgwyd i'r byw. Yn ôl un amcangyfrif, roedd tair miliwn o bobl yng ngwledydd Prydain wedi colli perthynas glôs. Yn aml iawn roedd yr alwad i weithio dros heddwch yn dod gan bobl oedd wedi gwrthwynebu rhyfel yn y lle cyntaf, ond erbyn hyn roedd ganddynt gynulleidfa newydd, hiraethus, a bu ymchwydd o gefnogaeth i ffyrdd heddychlon o weithredu. Er enghraifft ym 1927, adroddod Cymdeithas Cynghrair y Cenhedloedd yng Nghymru, oedd yn ymgyrchu dros gydweithio rhyngwladol, fod ganddynt 849 o ganghennau lleol, a chyfanswm o 47,342 o aelodau.

Yn y can mlynedd ers hynny, mae miloedd o bobl ledled Cymru wedi gweithredu dros heddwch fel ymateb uniongyrchol i erchyllterau rhyfel. Yr hanesion cudd hyn yw'r rhai yr hoffem eu tynnu ynghyd ym mhrosiect 'Cymru dros Heddwch'.

Os oes gennych stori, os hoffech ein helpu gydag ymchwil neu os oes gennych syniad am brosiect treftadaeth heddwch, cysylltwch â ni, a chadwch lygad ar ein gwefan er mwyn gweld esblygiad ein map heddwch o Gymru rhwng nawr a 2018.

#cofiodrosheddwch



Remembering for Peace

The First World War left families and communities across Wales bereaved and shaken to their core. According to one estimate, around three million people in Britain lost a close relative. The call to work for peace often came from those who had opposed war in the first place, but who now had a new, grieving audience and saw a resurgence of interest in peaceful alternatives. For example in 1927 the League of Nations Union in Wales, who campaigned for greater international cooperation, reported that there were 849 local branches with a total of 47,342 members.

In the hundred years since, thousands of people in Wales have been mobilised in the search for peace as a direct reaction to the horror of war. It is these hidden histories that we aim to bring together in the 'Wales for Peace' project.

If you have a story, would like to help us with research or have a peace heritage project in mind, get in touch, and keep an eye on our website to see how our peace map of Wales develops between now and 2018.

#rememberingforpeace

