

Cowbridge Volunteers - research.

Enlisted men 1759 *D/D Ed 535 (Edmond's deed in Glamorgan Record Office)*

David Morgan, 22, 5ft 8 inches, labourer 3 years
Evan Thomas, 17, 5ft 6 inches, labourer 3 years
Edward Jones, 16, 5ft 7 inches, shoemaker 3 years - all born Cowbridge.

Rees Gibbon
Griffith Williams
Evan Davies
Henry Harry
William Prothero

Volunteer force 1859

Notes of Jeff Alden

In 1859 the Government agreed to a revival of the Volunteer Force, whose infantry element had stood down towards the close of the Napoleonic Wars just over half a century earlier. The next direct cause of public disquiet were French naval and military expansions, and in consequence a form of invasion.

The revival of the Volunteer Force led to the rapid rising of Volunteer Corps of Light Horse, Artillery and Riflemen in every county. By 1867 the Glamorgan County Volunteer Force consisted of one Troop of Light Horse, three Corps of Artillery Volunteers, one Corps of Engineer Volunteers and eighteen Corps of Rifle Volunteers.

Outing of the Cowbridge Volunteers

from Glamorgan Gazette, ?1866

The morning was clear and bright, but towards 9 a.m. threatening clouds were visible and many were the surmises as to the probability of the weather. The occasion of this grand display, with its attendant anxiety, was the trip of the Cowbridge Volunteers to the sea-side, via the Leys, near Aberthaw. A short time ago, Hugh de Burgh Thomas Esq. of Llanblethian was elected captain of the corps, and that gentleman, alive to the onerous, laborious and responsible duties of his office, set himself assiduously to work to reform and correct the various errors that had crept silently into its management. The hours of drill were more punctually kept, the attendance of volunteers was more regular, and to crown his unceasing exertions some twenty or thirty new members were enrolled on the books, thus considerably strengthening the numbers and stimulating others to follow their worthy example. To add to the attraction, the band was re-organised, an efficient

conductor obtained, the latest novelties in the music line procured, and the proper evenings for practice fixed.

The time for mustering on Monday last was 9.30 a.m., but long before that hour the majority had assembled proving that the commands of their commanding officer had for once been obeyed with alacrity. Shortly after ten o'clock the start was made. Headed by their now highly distinguished band, they marched through the town (without the "banners so gay" on to the Llandough road, where vehicles of all descriptions – from the waggonette to the wagon, the trap to the shandy - were waiting to convey them to the desired place of retreat. The journey was a pleasant one, all were jovial and agreeable, and each vied with his neighbour to promote the general festivity of the occasion. Arrived at the Leys, they were drilled by their captain for about two hours and a half. The evolutions were creditably performed, the skirmishing being most unexceptional; the great improvement that had taken place in the last few months being patent to the innumerable concourse of bystanders, who had known them before that time, and who had specially attended that day to urge them to renewed exertions, to perfect their manoeuvres, and to participate in the universal pleasure. Drill over, a fierce onslaught was made on the provisions so liberally supplied by their worthy captain, the sea air and the morning's work having sharpened their appetites, and rendered the edibles doubly palatable. The fragments were distributed amongst those of the visitors who liked to partake, and many stragglers did ample justice to them.

The remainder of the day was spent in various ways. Some went to bathe in the sea, others preferred to play at quoits or skittles, while a number sought the ever-welcome society of the fair sex (of whom there was a pretty good sprinkling), and had pleasant rambles on the shore to pass away the time that was to elapse before their departure. The conductor of the band, ever willing to add to the public amusement, summoned his comrades, and played at intervals some really inspiring music, and dancing on the grass became general. The next part of the programme was "kiss in the ring", at which game even more indulged, their countenances all radiant with smiles, showing how thoroughly they enjoyed themselves, and how they appreciated the kindness of the promoter of the holiday.

The start home was effected at seven p.m., and by 8.30 most of the coloured cloth had reached their residences, and were no doubt imparting and describing their exploits to those *unfortunates* whose business called them elsewhere. The evils frequently attending gatherings of this kind were scarcely noticeable, good order and sobriety was the watchword of the day. Three hearty cheers were given for their noble captain, and the wish of all was that he might live long to discharge his duties so efficiently and satisfactorily. It is to be hoped that more of the gentry of this neighbourhood will swell the ranks of this well conducted corps, and that those who do not will subscribe to its funds. The band has given unmistakable signs of improvement during the time it has been under the charge of Mr John Williams. If the members continue to work as well together as they have hitherto done, there is no reason why the musical talent of the Cowbridgians should not stand out as prominently, and become as celebrated in the county and country

at large, as the distinction they have already gained in various other departments of knowledge.

The Easter Volunteer Encampment at Cowbridge 6th April 1878

.....a number of the members of the 16th (Cardiff) Rifle Volunteers will go into camp from Good Friday till Easter Monday...

.....the camp will be formed on the Common, rather over a mile from the Cowbridge Railway Station and, with fine weather, the members of the corps anticipate spending a very pleasant Easter holiday. The tents and other camp equipment will arrive at Cardiff and a fatigue party will be engaged on the Thursday in conveying it to Cowbridge Common. The 16th Corps will most likely start from Cardiff about midday on Good Friday, arrange the camp, and have a drill on that and the following day, and on the Sunday attend a church parade at Cowbridge.

On Easter Monday, the whole of the companies belonging to the battalion, as well as several of those attached to the 1st Administrative Battalion, will join in a grand field day which, it is anticipated, will be a very successful feature in local volunteer movements.

'Western Mail'

Further article on 18th April 1878

'Western Mail'

.....in addition to the tents and other necessary material, the Government stores will supply waterproof sheets, blankets, cases for the making of straw beds, and have even added the luxury of pillow slips, for the proper filling of which an order has been given for a good supply of straw.

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Research of Jeff & Betty Alden