

The names

Most are Army, listed by regiment, but there are more than 90 Royal Navy and Merchant Navy men

There are at least 11 sets of brothers

The ages of those who died range from 14 to 61

They include an MP Lord Ninian Crichton Stuart and ex-Welsh rugby international Dai Westacott

One soldier, Sgt Alf Norman, had been reported dead but survived the war but his name still ended up by mistake on the memorial

Only 330 names were ultimately included although it was quite accurately estimated while the memorial was being planned that 500 local Grangetown people died – and our project uncovered details of at least 502.

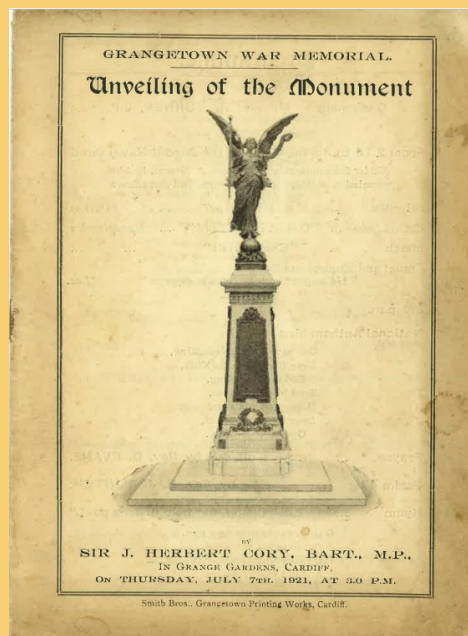
Why were names missed off?

It was common for people to submit names in writing, as with the Lord Mayor's civic memorial, while there would have been a reliance on word of mouth. Families were asked for contributions but still some were missed. People moved away, while some perhaps clinged to the hope their loved one might still return. There were also transcription errors and duplications.

Those not included include the first Cardiff man - indeed Welshman - to die in the war, Royal Navy stoker William Welton, 19, of Somerset Street, whose ship was hit in the North Sea while mine clearing on August 6th 1914, within 32 hours of war being declared.



Another not included on the memorial was Cardiff City footballer Tom Witts—back row far left—killed two days before the end of the war

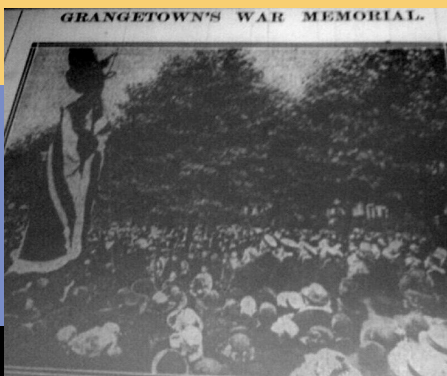


Thursday 7th July 1921

The dedication ceremony at 3pm coincided with the fifth anniversary of the Battle of Mametz Wood in the Somme, which led to the deaths of many Welsh soldiers, including five that day from Grangetown.

In front of large crowds, there was music from the Cardiff Naval Brigade and the guest of honour was MP Sir Herbert Cory.

Dr R J Smith, who gave the public address, said: "Grangetown gave a greater proportion of men to the war than any other ward in Cardiff."



Grangetown war memorial 1921-2021



Grangetown Local History Society
www.grangetownhistory.co.uk



The committee

Before the end of World War One, in autumn of 1918, it was felt that there was a need to commemorate the lives of the men – soldiers and seamen – who had died over the previous four years.

The Grangetown War Heroes Committee, chaired by Thomas Williams, was formed at public meeting at the Forward Movement mission hall on the corner of Corporation Road and Paget Street – where Tesco Express stands now.

The committee included vice chairman, boilermaker Fred Cornish, baker John Henry Parfitt, Russian-born pawnbroker Morris Hauser, one time greyhound trainer turned hotel worker Robert Hornett, docks worker Thomas Podd and another baker John Julian (Hon Sec, who died before the unveiling).

How was it paid for?

The memorial cost £1,000 and was paid for by voluntary subscription and contributions. It was certain that those who lost a loved one were among those asked to pay something towards it.

The organising committee commissioned Henry Charles Fehr (1867-1940), a London sculptor, who had also designed the dragon on top of City Hall.

The names are displayed on bronze plaques around the Portland stone monument. On the top he placed a bronze statue of winged victory, bearing laurel wreath and sword, standing on an orb.

There is a plaque with the names of the committee on the memorial.

No minutes of the organising committee survive but there is a mention in a report of the council's park committee of September 11th 1919 of plans to present a "handsome memorial including a "beautiful design figure of peace".

Later additions

The name of another soldier Pte William Laugharne, 23, was added on a plaque in 2000. His body was not found until nine years after his death in October 1917 and too late to be included on the original memorial. A plaque was also added by Grangetown Local History Society to remember those who died in World War Two.

Another plaque to the 153 men and women who died in World War One, but were not included on the memorial, was added in 2018.

What about World War Two?

Because there was no room for the names of those who died in World War Two, the conflict is remembered by a simple plaque, added many years later.

But we have been researching the details of those who died.



Daniel Coopey's family lived opposite Grange Gardens. He was killed in France in September 1944 serving with the Rifle Brigade. One of nine children, he was just 18.

We have discovered around 292 local men, women and children who died – not only soldiers and sailors but those serving with the RAF and civilians who died in the Blitz.

We have created an online memorial with details of all those who died.

This can be found, along with our online memorial to World War One casualties, on

www.grangetownwar.co.uk

Grangetown Local History Society www.grangetownhistory.co.uk

Further reading: *It Touched Every Street – Stories of the soldiers, sailors and civilians from Grangetown who served and died* – by Steve Duffy (Wordcatcher Publishing) and *Cardiff and The Blitz* by Steve Duffy (to be published by Wordcatcher, September 2021)