

## LEST WE FORGET

**William Lewis**  
**Private 57491**  
**The Lincolnshire Regiment**

William's father Edwin worked on Lower Llanmelin farm as a carter for the Parker family and William lived there in one of the cottages with Fanny his mother and five brothers and sisters. William worked for a time for Billy Adams who kept the village stores where Caerwent Garage now is.

A letter written to his parents before leaving for France shows him serving with a training unit of the South Wales Borderers in East Anglia and that he was an officer's servant perhaps because of his young age. But this job also allowed him the perk of extra, and no doubt richer, rations. Also with him at the same time were Bert Woodlands and Percy Peach who both returned safely from the war.



William was killed in action in France on 27th May 1918. He was 19 years old. This was at the time of the Germans last great "Spring offensive" which caused the Allies large losses of ground and men. He has no known grave and is recorded on the Soissons Memorial in France. In a condolence letter his platoon officer praised him for being a good soldier and described his death as an "honour to your house albeit a sad one". He reports that William died instantly on being hit by a shell.

Lower Llanmelin Farm was taken over by the Dinham factory in 1938 and the cottages, which were inside the fence, have since been demolished. William had sisters Mary, Alice and Ada, who moved away, and brothers George and Jim, who gave rise to Edwin and Alan respectively, both well known locally. Alan, who died recently, always kept this photo in a prominent place.

---

## CÆR WENT HISTORIC TRVST

---

Our talk on Navigation and the Neddern was cancelled at the last minute due to illness and hopefully will be given in the new year. Meanwhile there is one at the Caerleon Roman Legionary Museum:

### *The Roman Auxiliary Forces* *Wednesday November 11<sup>th</sup>*

Dr Mike Thomas will explain the origins and role of the non-Roman soldiers who were so important in the expansion of the Empire. Tickets are £3.00 including light refreshments, ring 01633 423134 or just turn up and pay at the door, starting at 6pm.