

**Caerphilly School Log Books**  
**World War 1**  
**Identified Themes**

**Supporting the War effort.** From the autumn of 1914 schools took up the challenge of supporting the war effort with enthusiasm. At first their efforts were directed towards practical activities such as making “comforts” for soldiers and, in some cases, for teachers and former pupils (old boys) serving in the armed forces. Schools also raised money for local and national charities set up to help the war wounded and their families. St Dunstan’s (see the Caerphilly Boys School log book entry below) was a charity that specialised in providing support and rehabilitation for soldiers returning from the front lines suffering from blindness.

*“A packet of cigarettes had been sent to each Old Boy on the Roll of Honour. In each packet a silk imitation of a leek was enclosed and a letter from one of our lads in the upper standard signed by his Class Teacher and myself. On this morning four letters arrived from the recipients of these parcels addressed to the lads who had written the letters.” ECG17/3 Twyn Mixed School.*

*“Scholars have been given lessons on the War – its causes - and have been busily employed in ... knitting helmets, mufflers, socks and body belts for our soldiers and sailors. Materials for these have been provided by a local Sewing Guild. An appeal was also made for bandages – so scholars have brought old garments from their homes which have been cut and joined into bandages accordingly. A large parcel, 42lb, has been despatched to the Front today.” ECG37/6 Senghenydd Girls School.*

*“Tonight we are holding a Concert in the Palace Theatre for the benefit of Old Boys of this school in HM Forces. The performance includes Ali Baba.” ECG17/3 Twyn Mixed School.*

*“St David’s Day celebration held at Castle Cinema. A silver collection was taken from the balcony which amounted to £2-6-0 which is to be sent on to a Brigadier General Owen Thomas in aid of the Welsh Fund for Disabled Soldiers after the War.” ECG13/3 Caerphilly Girls School.*

*“In consequence of the Great European War in which our country is engaged as protector of Belgium , a neutral state and eventually to carry out her obligations to France as per agreement against Prussian militarism, the girls in the three upper classes have been anxious to do something for our gallant soldiers. In order to minister somewhat to their comfort, they have decided each to knit a pair of socks or comforter. They have therefore undertaken to collect the money to pay for wool and as a result of their efforts, the sum realised is £7-14-0.” ECG13/3 Caerphilly Girls School.*

*“The first parcel of socks and mufflers knitted by the girls viz – 32 pairs of socks and 23 mufflers were sent today to the Lady-in –Waiting to the Queen, Devonshire House. They had been washed and pressed, gratis, at the local laundries.” ECG13/3 Caerphilly Girls School.*

*“Received instruction to close school this afternoon as there is a great function in the Castle on behalf of the Blinded Soldiers from St Dunstan’s. The blind men will give two concerts. Besides there is a Carnival and sports etc.” ECG12/3 Caerphilly Boys School .*

*“The school will be closed for the afternoon July 25<sup>th</sup> for a great floral fete the proceeds to the Prisoner of War Fund by order of the Managers.” ECG13/3 Caerphilly Girls School.*

As the number of war wounded mounted many were brought to hospitals in South Wales. Schools often made links with local military hospitals.

*“This afternoon four wounded soldiers from Caerphilly Hospital visited the school from 3.20 to 4pm. They visited the various classes in pairs and showed much interest in a Welsh School. The pupils were equally delighted with the visitors who hailed from Liverpool, Norfolk, Cornwall and London respectively. The soldiers were guests of the Red Cross Nurses for the afternoon.” ECG 18/2 Cwmaber Girls School.*

*“This afternoon we shall deviate slightly from the time table. A few wounded soldiers from our local hospital are coming in to hear the little ones sing and recite.”*

*“About 14 wounded soldiers came in yesterday and expressed great delight on hearing the little ones. Sergt O’Toole (Royal Irish Pioneers) and Sergt Herbert (City of London Royal Fusiliers) afterwards spoke to the children and thanked them.” ECG11/1 Caerphilly Infants.*

*“Two visitors came here this afternoon to hear the girls singing – two blind soldiers who were on a visit to Abertridwr – one from London and one from Australia. They expressed great pleasure at the singing especially the Welsh songs. The children keenly felt the presence of the visitors and their sacrifice appealed to them greatly. Needless to say they received a very hearty welcome.” ECG 18/2 Cwmaber Girls School.*

Caerphilly did not follow the example of local authorities, such as Merthyr, that encouraged schools to raise funds for specific projects (e.g. the Lord Mayor’s Appeal in Merthyr raised funds to provide an Ambulance Car for the Front). However, the authority was an active supporter by 1917 of the national campaign to set up a War

Savings Association in every school. Children were encouraged to make regular contributions to their school savings association and a number of national campaigns were used to encourage and promote the purchase of War Bonds. This included a visit by Tanks to towns in south Wales in 1918 and the display in some towns of captured German guns. Notional targets were set for each town dependent on its size and often linked to the cost of a specific piece of equipment. For example, as noted in the Senghenydd Girls School log book, the Caerphilly Urban District Area was asked to raise £100,000, the price of a submarine. Schools played an important role in raising money and promoting the savings campaigns. The authority awarded additional holidays to the most successful schools based on the amount raised per pupil. The National Savings campaign was continued after 1918 as the country attempted to address the costs of the war.

*“The Caerphilly Group of schools will be closed on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> inst in order that Head Teachers and their staff may attend a meeting convened by the Secretary of the War Savings Committee. The dire need of enlisting the full sympathy of the parents through the scholars in straining to the uttermost, the means of saving methodically and taking the advantage of the facilities now offered by the Government for small investors and thereby helping to bring this gruesome war to an honourable end is the object of calling the Teachers together.” ECG 13/3 Caerphilly Girls School.*

*“Head Teacher gave a special address to the whole school this morning on War Savings. A branch of the National War Savings Association has been opened in connection with this school. 30 scholars from this Department joined in response to the appeal.” ECG37/6 Senghenydd Girls School.*

*“A special effort was made throughout the country during this week in connection with the purchase of War Bonds and War Savings Certificates. Each town and village was given a quota - largest town to purchase a Dreadnought, others cruisers and villages even trawlers. Caerphilly Urban District Area was asked to raise £100,000, the price of a submarine. The committee of Senghenydd Schools War Savings Association decided that scholars be requested to bring their moneys on each day and every day of this week instead of Mondays as usual. The response from this Dept was excellent.... Total for the four Departments was £67 13s the purchase price of 87(15s 6d) certificates. ECG37/6 Senghenydd Girls School.*

*“Visit of the Tank Egbert to Caerphilly with the object of raising £100,000 for the purpose of the war. The schools of the town were closed to celebrate the event.”*

*“As a result of special effort mentioned above 104 War Savings Certificates 15/6 each were purchased at the Tank on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> in connection with this Department.” ECG13/3 Caerphilly Girls School.*

*"Holiday granted by Education Committee for efforts recently made in connection with "Tank" and "War Weapons" weeks. The total amounts collected £935-8s." ECG27/1 Llanbradach Coed Y Brain Infants.*

*"The result of the "Tank" week for our school was £72-5s the largest sum realised in the Caerphilly group of schools. Total War Savings since its inception has reached £1250." ECG27/3 Llanbradach Coed Y Brain Boys School.*

*"A half holiday was granted to the children on the occasion of the visit of the Tank, Julian, to Treharris. A special effort on the part of Teachers and scholars resulted in £40 being collected and put into the Tank." ECG 41/3 Trelewis Mixed.*

*"Four large guns visit Caerphilly in connection with the War Savings Campaign and schools are closed by advice which reached me in the afternoon of the 22<sup>nd</sup>." ECG17/3 Twyn Mixed School.*

**Life in school.** The war had an immediate impact on schools. Although the movement of children around the country was primarily a feature of the Second World War, Caerphilly schools did take in a number of refugee children from Belgium.

*"It should be recorded that on the 25<sup>th</sup> January 1915 a little Belgian refugee Francois Vande Velde 10 years of age was admitted to this school. Knowing nothing of the English language or of its system of calculations. After but 12 months instruction he was promoted to the seventh standards and has become, without a doubt, the top boy of the school not only in English (including written and oral composition) but also in arithmetic and its various systems of tables so unlike the metric he had used previously on the continent. He leaves this week for a Belgian School In Cardiff." ECG23/1 Gilfach Bargoed Mixed and Infants.*

Boys were taught almost exclusively by male teachers and therefore boys' schools were particularly hard hit as staff volunteered or later in the war were called up for military service - often at very short notice.

*"Mr W Jones the Headmaster enlisted in RAMC Cardiff and consequently was absent for the remainder of the week." ECG1/2 Abertridwr Mixed and Infants.*

*"Mr WP Thomas CA was not able to resume duties today. He was sworn in as a recruit of the Royal Flying Corps on Saturday last and was transferred to the Military Authorities on the next day." ECG17/3 Twyn Mixed School.*

*“Mr Tyler and Mr Isaac CT who have been placed in Category B1 and are under 31 years of age will be shortly called up. These two are the last of the CTs to enter the Army and the only male left of an entirely male staff will be myself.” ECG23/1 Gilfach Bargoed Mixed and Infants.*

*“Mr William E Roberts, Certified Assistant, having applied for the post of Orderly at the Netley Hospital (Welsh Army Corps) is absent from duties this morning having been requested to attend Cardiff for an interview for Col Sheen – Commanding Officer.” ECG37/7 Senghenydd Junior Mixed.*

*“Mr R A Davies BA leaves today. He has secured a Commission in HM Army and leaves tomorrow for Llandudno to join the Battalion of the RW Fusiliers for training.” ECG3/5 Bargoed Boys School.*

*“Mr Roy M Evans last present 23/7/15 who was appointed here temporary during his summer vacation at UC Cardiff has applied for and secured work in a munitions factory and has not recommenced duties.” ECG27/3 Llanbradach Coed Y Brain Boys School.*

*“Mr WE Williams UT who was in charge of St 1 enlisted on Monday. I understand he was to join his unit today but he has not been to school since. The Headmaster enlisted yesterday and joined the Reserve.” ECG12/3 Caerphilly Boys School*

*“Mr A F Greenway CT today volunteered for the Front. He was very steady, earnest and trustworthy teacher and left with the best wishes for safe return by all the staff.” ECG23/1 Gilfach Bargoed Mixed and Infants.*

Conscription was introduced from 1916. As indicated in the log book entries below, the local authority kept a close check on the male teachers who had not enlisted in the armed forces. There is no evidence in the log books that Caerphilly followed the tough line taken in Cardiff with those identified as conscientious objectors. In addition, those conscripted had the right of appeal and many took this option.

*“Posted today replies to circulars –*

- 1. Teachers who assisted on National Registration*
  - 2. Return for male teachers on staff on 15<sup>th</sup> Nov 1915.*
    - a) Already enlisted before 15<sup>th</sup> Nov 1915.*
    - b) Not yet enlisted on 15<sup>th</sup> Nov 1915.”*
- ECG40/1 Tir-phil Mixed Infants.*

*“Mr Alfred J Singer UT was absent from school today having been summoned to appear by the Recruiting Medical Board at Cardiff for examination.” ECG18/1 Cwmaber Boys School.*

*“Willie A Jones is absent this morning – he is called to the Colours today. He returned this afternoon as his appeal has not been heard.” ECG20/15 Fochriw Mixed School.*

*“William J Forward terminated duties today. He proceeds to service in 21<sup>st</sup> RWF under Lord Derby’s Recruiting Scheme.” ECG19/2 Deri Mixed and Infants School.*

*“A complete return of men teachers, their enlistment, attestation and disqualification made and returned to office.” ECG27/3 Llanbradach Coed Y Brain Boys School.*

*“Mr WT Jenkins CA away having to appear under Military Service Act to answer charge of failing to report. He was handed over to the military authorities.” ECG12/3 Caerphilly Boys School*

*“Mr Lewis Isaac who left on March 16<sup>th</sup> to join HM Army has returned to duty today having been discharged from the Army on account of physical unfitness.” ECG23/1 Gilfach Bargoed Mixed and Infants.*

Schools and teachers were also expected to “do their bit” to support the war effort including helping with registration of volunteers and, in the latter years of the war, the establishment of a rationing scheme.

*“Mr W Bryn Davies called and stated that a teacher would be required at the Council Offices for a day or two to complete the Registration Work that week. I suggested Miss Barry as she appeared to be interested in this work.” ECG17/3 Twyn Mixed School.*

*“Received notification from Dr James to give a half holiday this afternoon.... The reason is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Welsh Regiment band is visiting the district and holding a recruitment drive.” ECG43/1 Troedyrhfwfuch Mixed Infants.*

**Women and the war.** Although seen as a temporary measure, women were increasingly employed in boys’ schools to fill the gaps left by recruitment to the armed forces . In addition, given the shortage of teachers across all sectors, dispensation was given for married women to continue to teach for the duration of the war.

*“Headteacher having married during the Easter vacation (now named Dinah Pugh) continues her duties at school for the duration of the war, her husband serving with HM Forces and Education Committee have sanctioned remaining at school.” ECG37/6 Senghenydd Girls School.*

*“All members of staff present except Miss FM Cole who on the occasion of her marriage to Lieut Bardeu, has been granted leave of absence from school until her husband returns to his unit. Mrs Bardeu has received permission from the Education Authority to remain on the teaching staff of this school until her husband returns to civil employment.” ECG37/1 Senghenydd Infants School.*

*“Mrs E Williams ST in accordance with the Committee Regulations leaves today, her husband having been demobilised from the Army.” July 1919. ECG13/3 Caerphilly Girls School.*

Women were increasingly taking leading roles on the home front. Applications to the local authority for children to be released from school before the age of 14 were commonplace. They were driven by the need not only to provide extra hands but also to release mothers and sisters to take up employment in industry and agriculture. However, there were limited opportunities for female teachers to contribute directly to the military effort beyond occupations such as nursing.

*“Miss Hughes has taken the St John’s Nursing course as a preparation for hospital work and has got her certificate. The Education Committee has sanctioned her application that of allowing her to take the month’s probation course on the understanding that the War Office appoint her afterwards for the duration of the “War” or at least 12 months.”*

*“Miss Hughes has been granted leave of absence prior to her leaving for active service at a military hospital in Egypt.” ECG13/3 Caerphilly Girls School.*

**Schools and coping with shortages.** Although rationing was not introduced until 1918, schools along with the general population experienced shortages of fuel and food. This impacted directly on attendance with children kept at home to queue for food. Head Teachers were asked to help pupils and families in finding ways and means of coping with the shortages.

*“A syllabus on thrift in connection with war has been drawn out and introduced.” ECG27/4 Llanbradach Coed y Brain Girls School.*

*“Food scarcity and the consequent quest for some are having a very bad effect on the attendance. Long queues are very frequent, butter, tea etc being*

*unobtainable almost, the small quantities ... being doled out in rations.”*  
ECG1/2 Abertridwr Mixed and Infants.

*“The rush for food at the co-operative store here is affecting the attendance. They allot a day for distribution of jam, cheese etc. Hence the long queues.”*  
ECG 1/2 Abertridwr Mixed and Infants.

*“The weather is still very miserable and there is much sickness, many girls being very badly shod owing to the great increase in the price of boots and other commodities which are the dire results of disastrous war which has raged during the past 29 months. An entertainment has been arranged . The senior girls are ready with a small play – The Sleeping Beauty. It has been suggested that where possible the scholars will bring a copper and the full amount expended on wool, that the senior girls can be set on for comforts for our brave soldiers and sailors, upon the opening of school after the recess.”*  
ECG13/3 Caerphilly Girls School.

*“The Master was unavoidably away from his school this afternoon from 1.50 – 2.26 to meet the Assistant Paymaster - Army Department – to give a list of local cases requiring immediate payments. Presumably the Master had to attend to this matter as the sole local representative of the Soldiers’ and Sailors’ Families Association which works in harmony with the War Office.”*  
ECG26/3 Llanbradach Mixed and Infants School.

*“Owing to the War some families have moved away from the place.”*  
ECG28/2 Llanfabon Mixed School.

**Keeping up morale.** The War led to the production of the first Government sponsored propaganda films. Schools in most local authority areas were encouraged to attend the films made in the early years of the war including “Britain Prepared”. However, many were more circumspect when “The Battle of the Somme” was released in 1916. Caerphilly was one of the few areas where Head Teachers encouraged children to attend this film.

*“The official picture of the Battle of the Somme was shown at the local Workman’s Hall and special matinee for children was held at 4 o clock this afternoon. To enable the children to see it without loss of attendance the school was opened at 1.20pm for the afternoon and was closed at 3.50pm.”*  
ECG1/2 Abertridwr Mixed and Infants.

*“The official film of “The Battle of the Somme “ is to be shown at a special matinee for children this afternoon in the Workmen’s Hall. To avoid a loss of attendance and enable the children to see the picture the afternoon session commenced at 1.15 and closed at 3.45.”* ECG18/1 Cwmaber Boys School.



The local authority expected schools to provide lessons on "Patriotism" and to use the opportunities offered by Empire Day and St David's Day to promote patriotism. Throughout the war a number of national campaigns were used to promote the Allied cause. Schools often used stories based around figures such as Nurse Edith Cavell and Jack Cornwell to praise the heroism of those who fought against the Germans and their allies. While Head Teachers took note, it was often difficult to determine how best to meet this requirement in schools for infants.

*"Special lessons given today on the "British Empire" and "Patriotism" to celebrate Empire Day." ECG7/3 Brithdir Girls School.*

*"St David's Day celebration ....Telling the children of the heroic deeds of our Welsh Regiments in the present Great War ... reading the School Roll of Honour, making laurel wreaths in memory of fallen heroes."ECG41/3 Trelewis Mixed.*

*"Permission has been granted by the Local Managers to take the scholars to the Palace Theatre this afternoon when an interesting programme has been prepared to celebrate Empire Day. An invitation has been tendered to the wounded soldiers now at Caerphilly Red Cross Hospital." ECG13/3 Caerphilly Girls School.*

*"Addressed the boys on the heroism displayed by our sailors in the attack on the Belgian coast operations at Zeebrugge - a complete success." ECG37/4 Senghenydd Boys School.*

*"At 2.30pm a lecture was given on our Navy by one of the Navy League lecturers to Stds 4 and 5. The lecture was illustrated by lantern slides." ECG17/3 Twyn Mixed School.*

*"Waterloo Day was commemorated during the last half hour of the afternoon session. A wounded soldier, Mr Davies of Caerphilly Road, a brother in law of one of the pupils was present. Our new Welsh Flag was unfurled. Wales, Britain, Belgium and France were represented by different girls with flags and suitable songs were sung. The value of peace and of friendly countries was emphasised rather than the glory of war. One of the teachers, Mrs Maud Jones, recited Waterloo by Byron." ECG18/2 Cwmaber Girls School.*

*"War news affords matter for conversation lessons and pictures of the War and Maps also have been freely used for these lessons." ECG12/2 Caerphilly Boys School*

**News from the Front.** News from the front was largely provided by national and local newspapers. The newspapers provided extensive coverage of the military campaigns. This information would have been supplemented by the frequent visits of former teachers and pupils to their schools when home wounded or on leave. The visits underlined the fact that for while for many recruits from Caerphilly the focus was the Front in Belgium and France others saw service in a wide range of roles both in Britain and abroad - including the Dardanelles, Palestine and the North Sea.

*“2nd Lieut Rees, an Old Boy, here am and pm. He addressed the boys, who were very interested in his descriptive accounts of his life in France and Gallipoli.” ECG37/4 Senghenydd Boys School.*

*“Quite a few old scholars in khaki have called to see us. Between 60 and 70 olds boys are known to have joined the Colours.” ECG12/2 Caerphilly Boys School*

*“Mr DG Llewellyn who is home from France where he took active part in the Battle of the Somme and received injury called to see us today before his return.” ECG12/3 Caerphilly Boys School*

*Sergt Emlyn Williams who enlisted Nov 15<sup>th</sup> 1915 called with his wife ...this afternoon. He has just returned from Salonika and has been recommended for a Commission.” ECG12/3 Caerphilly Boys School.*

*“During the week particular attention has been paid to the progress of the War and every encouragement has been given by the teachers of the upper classes especially to the pupils to take an intelligent interest in the movement of the Armies and Navies.” ECG5/2/2 Bedlinog Boys School.*

*“Mr D Samuel an old boy who became a teacher, now in HM Forces, visited us this afternoon. “ECG3/5 Bargoed Boys School.*

The rapid increase in the size of the armed forces and level of casualties at the Front also had an ongoing and significant impact on the lives of many pupils and staff in schools.

*“Miss FK Jenkins received a telegram this morning requesting her to go home. Subsequently it transpired that her brother had died in France.” ECG12/3 Caerphilly Boys School*

*“The loss of HMS Formidable torpedoed in the English Channel on 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 1915 cast quite a gloom over “old” Caerphilly as ... Lieutenant Willie Walters went down with her. He was an old Caerphilly boy who took a scholarship for Pontypridd County School and the County School Exam to a Naval School by*

*open competitive exam.... His widowed mother still resides in Caerphilly.  
"ECG12/2 Caerphilly Boys School.*

*"PM – military funeral of an Old Boy who died at Cambridge of wounds received at Hill 60. We all took a part – scholars and teachers of the four departments. Very impressive service." ECG37/4 Senghenydd Boys School.*

*Miss Margaret Davies has gone home having received news of the death in action in France of her soldier brother." ECG7/3 Brithdir Girls School.*

*"I was absent from duties this afternoon in order to attend the funeral of Lieut Hugh Howells RFC at Craig Rhymney Bridge. This promising young Officer met with a fatal accident whilst flying...." EC 41/3 Trelewis Mixed.*

*"Afternoon session was commenced at 1pm and closed at 3.30pm to give staff and a number of children an opportunity to attend a military funeral." ECG36/1 Rudry Mixed Infants.*

*"Hear with regret that Cpl E Griffith RGA (Master of this school) is in hospital in London from active service in France."*

*"Learn from Cpl Griffith that he has had a general breakdown and is very weak. Staff and scholars have sent sympathetic enquiries." ECG12/3 Caerphilly Boys School*

*"Miss Henderson sent to say that she was unable to attend again owing to her marriage taking place this week. Her future husband obtained short leave from military authorities before leaving for France to get married, The case reported to the CE Official as an emergency one." ECG27/3 Llanbradach Coed y Brain Boys School.*

*"Miss M Davies CT is absent today – soldier brother on short leave from the Front." ECG7/3 Brithdir Girls School.*

*"Miss Barry desired special permission to leave school this morning to go to Cardiff to bid goodbye to her brother who is leaving for the Front at short notice." ECG17/3 Twyn Mixed School.*

**War Heroes.** The extent to which the names of servicemen awarded medals and/or died in the war were recorded in log books was variable. Nevertheless, the log books contain a considerable list of local soldiers and sailors and many schools maintained a Roll of Honour listing all former pupils and teachers killed in the war.

*"News reached the school today that one of our staff, Pte WC Harris, 16<sup>th</sup> Batt Royal Welsh Fusiliers had been killed in action on Sunday Jan 30<sup>th</sup> 1916.*

*He was shot by a German sniper in the chest but continued firing until he was shot again in the head."*

*"Press Cutting – Caerphilly Teacher Killed. At a meeting of the Caerphilly school managers yesterday (Councillor Joseph Howells presiding) a letter was read from Dr J James, Chief Education Official, stating that he had been informed that a teacher in the Caerphilly Group – Mr WC Harris – had been killed in action. He was attached to the 16<sup>th</sup> Royal Welsh Fusiliers. The Head Master of the deceased school has sought permission to affix a brass tablet to the wall in the school on which would be engraved the names of any scholars and teachers who have given their lives for their country. The letter also stated that Mr Harris was the first teacher under the Glamorgan Authority who had made the great sacrifice in defence of his country. Votes of sympathy were passed with the relatives of both families and it was decided to recommend that permission be given for the tablet to be placed in the school as requested." ECG18/1 Cwmaber Boys School.*

*" St David's Day. A special programme was arranged for the morning session which included addresses on St David and patriotism. The Roll of Honour for the school was read aloud and wreaths of laurel made by the children themselves in honour of the Old Boys fallen in the war were hung up in the school." ECG1/2 Abertridwr Mixed and Infants.*

**Celebrating the End of the War.** While confirmation of the signing of the Armistice took time to reach some areas of south Wales, the news spread quickly in the Caerphilly area. However, it was not until the following day, 12 November 1918, that a school holiday was declared. By then, as the log books record, most children had voted with their feet and had joined the local celebrations.

*"This morning before the morning session was over news was received that an armistice had been arranged with Germany. The ordinary school routine will be somewhat changed this afternoon in order to allow the scholars to celebrate the occasion by singing a few patriotic songs and giving vent to their joyful feelings generally. The school marched down to the playground, playtime marched round the two National flags and cheered them and the dawn of peace." ECG18/2 Cwmaber Girls School.*

*"Great excitement and very little work done today as the good news that the Armistice had been signed was definitely confirmed and on such a Red Letter Day it was quite impossible to do anything except rejoice so singing and play occupied the day. "ECG12/3 Caerphilly Boys School*

*"At 11am the Peace Armistice among the Nations at War was signed and in force. Strange to say the news was brought to us by the local Police at this*

*hour, although we were not aware until later that it was the hour when hostilities ceased.” ECG17/3 Twyn Mixed School.*

*“An Armistice having been declared yesterday between the Allies and Germany, a general holiday was proclaimed at collieries and all shops were closed.” ECG37/6 Senghenydd Girls School.*

*“Contrary to all expectations the school is to open today although all industries are at a standstill. The children are very disappointed but work is carried on although the attendance is very low.” (Nov 12th 1918) ECG45/1 Ystrad Mynach Boys School.*

*“Armistice signed – World War seems likely to end in favour of Right against Might.” ECG37/7 Senghenydd Junior Mixed*

*“Attendance in the morning extremely poor on account of festivities in the village in commemoration of the signing of the Armistice with Germany. Fancy dress procession for school children at 1 o clock. School closed” ECG19/3 Deri Infants*

*“There are only 40% of the children present in the school due to the day having been set apart to commemorate the signing of the Armistice. There have been a number of demonstrations, services etc. In places all works, shops being closed. A phone message was sent to Mr James for permission to close the school but this was refused. Much disappointment has been expressed by the people that the children were not allowed a holiday.” ECG5/2/2 Bedlinog Boys School.*

*“School broke up today for the rest of the week to commemorate the signing of the Armistice – the 12<sup>th</sup> was a day never to be forgotten.” ECG23/1 Gilfach Bargoed Mixed and Infants.*

*“Only 46.3% present today. The remainder of the children are parading the streets with their parents and taking part in the Peace celebrations.” ECG37/1 Senghenydd Infants School.*

By the early months of 1919 many teachers were being discharged from the armed forces and returning to school life. In addition, there were national celebrations to mark the signing of the Treaty of Versailles and to commemorate the signing of the Armistice.

*“Recommended duties this morning. I left to join Army June 15<sup>th</sup> 1916. Recommended duties at Bargoed Boys School Jan 13<sup>th</sup> 1919 – David Davies Head Teacher.” ECG3/5 Bargoed Boys School.*

*"Mr A Williams having been demobilised recommenced here as Woodwork Instructor today." EC 5/2/2 Bedlinog Boys School.*

*"Received intimation that Mr GRA Wilson who joined the Colours in June 1918 is to return to duties here on Jan 20<sup>th</sup> but have not heard of the return of Mr Griffith, Head Teacher." ECG12/3 Caerphilly Boys School*

*"Peace Celebrations. In accordance with the decision of Caerphilly Urban District Council all children under the age of 14 yrs are to be presented with a souvenir mug to celebrate the signing at Versailles of the peace treaty, July 1919, which brings to a victorious close the Great European- World War, 1914-18." ECG13/3 Caerphilly Girls School.*

*Peace Celebration – School used for providing tea for the scholars." ECG45/1 Ystrad Mynach Boys. .*

*"A holiday was granted on Monday for Peace Sports." ECG3/1 Bargoed Infants School.*

*"We close school on Monday for the whole day. The Sports section of the Peace Celebrations takes place on that day." 18 July 1919 ECG7/3 Brithdir Girls School.*

*"Today is Armistice Day. His Majesty's message has been read to the assembled girls and we have united in a remembrance of the Glorious Dead paying them a tribute for the brief space of two minutes. Mr West who was in France as a chaplain twelve months today gave the top class girls short address." ECG 7/3 Brithdir Girls School.*

*"*