

**Cardiff 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 specifically for battalions created almost entirely from local recruits – the Pals battalions. Schools also raised money for local and national charities – including support for Belgian refugees, the first civilian casualties of the war in Western Europe.

*“ Received a circular from the Director of Education stating that the Committee has decided to allow the school children to make comforts for the soldiers instead of the usual sewing and knitting lessons” EC1/11 Albany Road Girls School.*

*“A concert was given by the children this afternoon ... in aid of the Belgian Children’s Relief Fund.” EC23/1 St Marys Infants, Bute Terrace.*

*“We gave our concert for funds to help the wounded last night. The hall was filled to overflowing and the audience seemed most appreciative. We wish to repeat the concert to the wounded soldiers.” EC42/3/1 Ninian Park Girls School.*

*“Yesterday some of the children gave a little entertainment to the rest of the school to raise funds to relieve the starving Belgian children, some parents came. Admission was 1d or more. 1d was the minimum charge. We made £2-8-9.” EC42/3/1 Ninian Park Girls School.*

*“50 of the old boys have joined the forces already and many have paid us a visit before leaving for France. We managed to collect enough to purchase wool which has been made into mittens by the girls in their time. These were all finished and despatched to the old boys in time for Christmas.” EC24/7 St Mary’s Mixed and Infants, Clarence Road.*

As the number of war wounded mounted many were brought to hospitals in Cardiff. Schools often make links with, and provided direct support to, local military hospitals.

*“A Harvest Thanksgiving Service was held in the central hall from 3.30 -4.15. The children brought fruit, eggs and flowers etc which were taken next day to the Barracks Hospital.” EC9/1 Gabalfa Junior.*

*"In the afternoon from 3.30 to 5.30 the children had their annual party. Six wounded soldiers from Whitchurch Hospital were invited to the concert and the children afterwards entertained them to tea." EC9/1 Gabalfa Junior.*

*"Fruit and vegetables have been sent to the Barracks Military Hospital, Albany Rd Military Hospital and the Queen's Nurses Institute, 14 Park Grove." EC6/4 Crwys Road Girls.*

*"Yesterday for the last hour we had a sale of vegetables and bran tubs. We made £3-18-5 most is this to be given to King Edward VII Hospital and some kept on hand for comforts for soldiers." EC42/3/2 Ninian Park Girls School.*

*"Children were asked last week to bring one teaspoon of sugar for wounded soldiers who were to be entertained by teachers of the city. The result was – 23lbs of sugar, 4lbs (sugar) lumps, 450 cigarettes, 8 boxes of matches, one and half lbs of jam, bread etc. Brought by 210 children, all unsolicited except the sugar." EC26/3 St Patrick's Mixed School.*

*"The infants completed a subscription for a bath chair to be given for the use of the wounded at Ninian Park Hospital." EC25/2 St Patrick's RC Infants, Grangetown.*

*"Today 180 new laid eggs were given by the teachers and infant children to the wounded soldiers at the Prince of Wales and Red Cross Hospitals." EC31/2 Stacey Road Infants.*

*"Tomorrow we (teachers and myself) take about 40 children to Ninian Park Hospital and entertain the wounded soldiers for the third time since January. As formerly the children have brought money, cigarettes, eggs etc. This time all the money (13s) for sweets – these are given out in the interval to the men." EC42/3/1 Ninian Park Girls School.*

*"I sent yesterday an account of what had been done voluntarily by pupils and teachers of this school during the Great War 1914-18. By public concerts and small entertainments in school over £60 was raised to get comforts for our soldiers and sailors. We had no outside help and it was entirely done by scholars and teachers and in the case of public concerts by former pupils taught by teachers in the evening." EC42/3/2 Ninian Park Girls School.*

Cardiff did not follow the example of local authorities, such as Merthyr, that encouraged schools to raise funds for specific projects (e.g. in Merthyr this took the form of the Lord Mayor's Appeal for funds to provide an Ambulance Car for the

Front). However, by 1917 the authority was an active supporter of the national campaign to set up a War Savings Association in every school. The authority awarded additional holidays to the most successful schools based on the amount raised per pupil. National campaigns, including the visit of Tanks to major towns in 1918, were also used to encourage and promote the purchase of War Bonds. By and large the schools responded very positively to the campaigns, although as one head noted it was, at times, difficult to maintain the momentum.

*“The Lord Mayor, Lady Mayoress and Mr Jackson, Director of Education, addressed the whole of the boys who assembled in the playground. He emphasised the value of a good education and character and urged the boys the necessity of increasing their subscriptions to the War Savings Certificates.” EC31/4 Stacey Road Boys.*

*“The new scheme of War Savings in connection with the National War Savings Association was taken up in this department this week. A very good start has been made.” EC1/8 Albany Road Boys School.*

*“Each War saver was presented with a 6d War Savings Coupon by the Cardiff Patriotic War Savings Association today.” EC 14/6 Kitchener Road Infants.*

*“Received a circular from the Director of Education informing me that it had been decided to give all schools a half day holiday on Friday afternoon in recognition of the great success of the War Savings Demonstration by school children on Saturday 1 December.” EC1/8 Albany Road Boys School.*

*“School closed for whole day as recognition of school effort in War Savings. Amount to date £2840”. EC16/1 Cardiff Llandaff Mixed.*

*“This was extinguished with a bucket of water. (Presumably a fire in the Headmaster’s office) I then got to my desk and saved the Children’s War Savings Books.” EC16/1 Cardiff Llandaff Mixed.*

*“School will not be held tomorrow morning as a holiday has been granted to the Girls Dept in recognition of the effort made in connection with the war savings. £1000 having been subscribed up to Oct 4<sup>th</sup>.” EC20/2 Marlborough Road Girls.*

*“A half holiday has been granted for this afternoon in recognition of the success of the War Savings Campaign among the school children.” EC23/1 St Mary’s Infant, Bute Terrace.*

*“With all the well paid work that is to be had in the docks, the War Savings of the scholars are not what they should be. In spite of much exhortation on the*

*subject, the weekly amounts put in are disappointingly small.” EC24/7 St Mary’s Mixed and Infants, Clarence Road.*

**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, Cardiff schools did take in a number of refugee children from Belgium and also a small number of children sent to Cardiff to avoid the first air raids (possibly Zeppelin raids).

*“Admitted four Belgian refugees into the school.” EC 21/3 Radnor Road Boys.*

*“Within the last 3 weeks a number of Jewish children have been admitted. They left London owing to frequent Air Raids from enemy aeroplanes.” EC42/3/2 Ninian Park Girls School.*

With wounded soldiers invalided back to Britain there was a desperate need for hospital beds and a number of schools in south Wales were handed over to the military. Given its size, Cardiff was seen as particularly well placed amongst towns in south Wales to provide additional hospitals for wounded soldiers. In many instances schools were required to share premises and operate the single session system – with one school using the premises in the morning, 8.45 to 12.30 and a second school in the afternoon 1.30 to 5.15. .

*“A week after the war was actually declared. Had not left for the continent according to habit because of general uncertainty in travelling and soon it was obviously impossible. Preparation began to be made in the town for possible reception of wounded and several schools were requisitioned by the RAMC for hospital purposes.” ESEC66/11/1 City of Cardiff High School for Girls.*

*“After the Declaration of War against Germany ten schools were required for hospitals for wounded soldiers. Howard Gardens School was one required: the boys from that school occupied the building of the infants department of Crwys Road School. This school was reopened in the building of Roath Park Infants School on 5<sup>th</sup> October 10.45 to 12.12 and 2.25 to 4.0 working alternate sessions with Roath Park Infants School.” EC6/3 Crwys Road Infants*

*“Received news that the Lansdowne Rd School was required immediately for Military purposes and that the scholars would be housed in Radnor Rd School. The schools would work on the single session system.... Lansdowne Rd School furniture, cupboards and teachers desks were brought today.” EC21/3 Radnor Road Boys*

*“Owing to Albany Rd Council School having been taken by the War Office as a military Hospital during the War, the Albany Rd Boys are working in the*

*Roath Park Infants School and the central halls of the Marlborough Rd Boys and Girls Schools” EC 1/8 Albany Road Boys.*

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. The Director of Education in Cardiff took a detailed and particular interest in encouraging male teachers to join the armed forces. By 1917 the Cardiff City Council had decided to take a tough line with conscientious objectors and all male teachers of “recruitable age” were asked to declare whether they were objectors.

*“Mr W S Rees left the school this afternoon having enlisted in the “Pals” Battalion of the new army. “ EC21/3 Radnor Road Boys*

*“Mr W Pickard has been accepted for Kitchener’s Army and has left for an indefinite period.... It is worthy of note that the seven members of staff who were of enlistment age have volunteered, six in Kitchener’s Army and one as a Territorial” EC14/4 Kitchener Road Boys.*

*“ Bombardier A P Pressdee RGA and Serg’t Billing RAMC are in France on Military Service and it’s hoped that they will soon return safe and sound to their scholastic duties.” EC6/5 Crwys Road Boys Mixed.*

*“Mr Wm T John who should have commenced military duty today attended school as usual. He informs me that he has been sent back by the military authorities owing to the prevalence of small pox in the City. He will be given one weeks’ notice when called up again.” EC21/3 Radnor Road Boys*

*“L K Jeffrey (PT) left having been ordered by the Military Tribunal to take up work of an agricultural character.” EC44/2/1 Roath Park Primary.*

*“Received circular letter from the Director of Education asking for the names of all men teachers of recruitable age classified as follows 1) those who have enlisted or attested 2) those who have been rejected on medical grounds 3) those who have not offered themselves for enlistment or attestation.” EC21/3 Radnor Road Boys*

*“The City Council had passed a resolution “that this Council considers it undesirable that any person who is a Conscientious Objector to Military Service shall continue in the service or pay of the Council of the City of Cardiff or any Committee thereof”. The Director of Education forwarded a Schedule on which each teacher was asked to answer the following question – “Are you a Conscientious Objector to Military Service?” and the Head teacher was*

*asked to initial the signature of each teacher. All teachers here answered "no".* EC21/3 Radnor Road Boys

*"Mr Jackson, Director of Education, paid a brief visit this Tues aft to enquire if any teacher was a conscientious objector or in any way unpatriotic."* EC26/3 St Patrick's Mixed School

All teaching staff were also expected to "do their bit" to support the war effort in Cardiff including, in the latter years of the war, the establishment of a rationing scheme.

*"Received a notice from the Director of Education that the Education Committee had decided to ask for one volunteer from each Department of every school to assist the food controller in making out the cards for registration of food stuffs. The staff decided to draw lots and Mr Arthur Evans was chosen."* EC1/8 Albany Road Boys School.

*"The teachers have contributed towards a "Teachers Bed" and they are shortly to be called upon to contribute a weekly sum to be paid through the local NUT Assoc."* EC24/7 St Mary's Mixed and Infants, Clarence Road.

*"By request of the Military Authorities acting through the Board of Education , Mr Morgan absent from school duties to assist with clerical work in connection with the National Register."* EC21/3 Radnor Road Boys

*"Received a letter from the Director of Education stating that a teacher would be required for the whole of this week to assist with the rationing cards"* EC21/3 Radnor Road Boys.

*"Miss Rebecca Williams will be absent for a few days on duty at the City Hall in connection with Rationing Scheme."* EC44/3/1 Roath Park Girls School.

*"Another Circular was received with respect to the shortage of Special Constables in the City owing to enlistments and ... asking members of staff to volunteer for this work."* EC 1/8 Albany Road Boys School.

**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.

*"Miss Gertrude Bamton was transferred to Severn Boys School to fill a vacancy by a teacher gone on military service."* EC1/2, Albany Road Infants.

*Miss Edith R Lancaster, Trained Certified Teacher, commenced duties as a member of the staff in place of Mr A P Pressdee who has been called to Military Service.” EC 6/5 Crwys Road Boys Mixed.*

*“Mrs Ethel Jones BSc commenced temporary duty here today in place of Mr Phillips who has joined the Army.” EC31/3 Stacey Road Boys.*

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 manpower but also to release mothers to take up employment in industry and agriculture. However, there were still only limited opportunities for women to contribute directly to the military effort beyond occupations such as nursing.

*“Miss Batt teacher of Welsh absent having entered the 1<sup>st</sup> Southern General Hospital for Training as a Nurse (War Service). EC44/2/1 Roath Park Primary School.*

*“Miss M G Gandersow absent; began three weeks training as Red Cross Nurse at King Edwards Hospital – preparatory to going into a Military Hospital in France.” EC20/1 Marlborough Road Girls.*

*“Miss Pratt is spending this week at King Edward Hospital to complete three weeks training as a Red Cross Nurse.” “ EC26/3 St Patrick’s Mixed School*

*“Miss Moody left on Monday for the Newport Military Hospital. She will probably not return until after the War.” EC30/1 Splott Road Infants.*

*“A large number of boys between the ages of 13 and 14 have been allowed to leave school for work owing to the war crisis” EC1/8 Albany Road Boys 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 and were expected to “economise”. Schools were also required to help pupils and families find ways and means of coping with food shortages.

*“The percentage of attendance has this week fallen to 87.8 due in a great measure to boys staying away to stand in queues for butter etc. On Friday afternoon 77 boys were absent – over one sixth of the total on register.” EC31/4 Stacey Road Boys.*

*“The scarcity of food tempts mothers to send their children in school hours to search for butter and other articles.” EC24/7 St Mary’s Mixed and Infants, Clarence Road.*

*“31 girls from St 5 and 6 went to a special demonstration at Marlborough Rd Cookery Centre on the cooking of wheat substitutes leaving school at 3pm for that purpose”. EC6/4 Crwys Road Girls.*

*“Received through the Director of Education a communication from Cardiff Food Control Committee asking that all members of staff should be given the opportunity of signing a form pledging them to a voluntary scale of rationing. All members of the staff signed the form which was returned today.” EC21/3 Radnor Road Boys*

*“Empire day Celebration. In addition to the singing of Patriotic songs, special lessons regarding the food problem were given. The boys were assembled in the playground where the Head Teacher added to the remarks of the teachers on the Food Campaign and also displayed the Roll Of Honour; the boys saluted the Roll containing the names of Crwys Rd old boys who have fallen in the War.” EC6/5 Crwys Road Boys Mixed.*

*“Warned all children to eat less and save bread.” EC24/3 St Mary’s Infants, Clarence Road*

**Keeping up morale.** The War led to the production of the first Government sponsored propaganda films and most pupils in Cardiff were taken to see “Britain Prepared”. However, authorities, including Cardiff were more circumspect when “The Battle of the Somme” was released in 1916.

*“ Received a circular from the Director of Education informing that the manager of the Cardiff Empire was arranging a performance of the film “Britain Prepared” for school children on Saturday morning 11<sup>th</sup> March 10.30. The charge for admission will be at the rate of 3d per child.” EC1/8 Albany Road Boys School.*

*Circular received from the office with regard to the taking of scholars to the film “Britain Prepared” at the Empire tomorrow.” EC24/7 St Mary’s Mixed and Infants Clarence Road.*

The Board of Education expected all schools to provide lessons on “Patriotism” and to use the opportunities offered by Empire Day and St David’s Day to promote patriotism. All schools took note although it was often difficult to determine how best to meet this requirement in schools for infants.



*“Received a circular from Education Committee stating that in accordance with the suggestion of the Board of Education the first half hour or more on the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday in each month during the rest of the year should be devoted to the teaching of Patriotism.” EC21/3 Radnor Road Boys*

*“Empire Day. Children assembled in school. Head Mistress explained the meaning of Empire and why we were fighting. A section of girls made, with ribbons, the flags of St Andrew, St Patrick, St George ... A group of boys danced sailor’s hornpipe and a dozen boys and girls danced the maypole. Patriotic songs were sung. Afterwards infants assembled in the yard, along with boys and girls, and sang half the National Anthem of Britain and all walked past and saluted the flag.” EC24/3 St Mary’s Infants, Clarence Road.*

*“Circular received re teaching of Patriotism together with a number of booklets from Board of Education .Have spoken to the staff on this matter. The first lesson will be given on Monday.” EC1/11 Albany Road Girls School.*

*“Talk on “France and her part in the War” to all classes assembled in the Hall was given by the Headmistress in compliance with request of Director of Education.” EC20/2 Marlborough Road Girls.*

*“The ordinary timetable will be suspended today and lessons will be given bearing upon Trafalgar, Nelson and the present European War as per an arranged time table. EC6/4 Crwys Road Girls School.*

*“Empire Day Celebration. School assembled at 9am. A programme consisting of songs, recitations, readings and lecturettes was arranged. The Headmaster addressed the boys assembled in the playground on “Children’s war savings”. Saluting the flag and singing Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau and God Save the King concluded the proceedings.” EC6/5 Crwys Road Boys Mixed.*

*“Empire Day. According to instructions from the Cardiff Education Committee the children were assembled at 9am received instructions and sung patriotic songs. About 10.15 they marched around the yard headed by a boy carrying the flag and four children dressed to represent England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales....After the singing was over the babies went through their concert item “The Fairies Party” for a lady visitor Miss Allen.” EC25/2 St Patrick’s RC Infants Grangetown.*

Throughout the war a string of national campaigns were used to promote the Allied cause. A number of schools also 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.

*“Received a circular from the Director of Education enclosing 12 copies of a circular on “Education and the War” one for each member of staff and 2 copies “Why did we go to war”. Members of staff asked to give lessons to their scholars on the contents of these Circulars” EC1/8 Albany Road Boys School.*

*“ Received a circular from the Director of Education respecting the open air cinema show which is being give free of charge outside the City Hall by the National War Arms Committee.” EC1/8 Albany Road Boys School*

*“Received a circular letter from Director of Education stating that the Education Committee had sanctioned collections towards a testimonial to perpetuate the memory of Jack Cornwell, the boy hero of the Navy.” EC21/3 Radnor Rd Boys*

*“Circular received authorising collections to be taken from the children for the “Jack Cornwell Memorial”. Collected from the children ... the sum of £1.1.0” EC1/11 Albany Road Girls 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.

*“ Company Sergeant Major Barter VC, an old Crwys Boy visited the school this morning. The Boys, Girls and Infants were assembled in the Girls playground... Barter won his VC at Festubert where with eight other British soldiers he captured 102 Germans including 3 officers. He also found and cut eleven wires connected with mines these being laid with the aim of blowing up British trenches. Sergeant Major Barter had a rousing reception from the scholars.... A cheque for ten pounds was presented by the three departments to the hero.... The proceedings concluded by the announcement by the Director of Education that the School Management committee had granted holiday for the remainder of the day. The children were dismissed at 12.15”. EC6/5 Crwys Road Boys Mixed.*

*“Capt the Rev H O Barnett spent most of the morning in school. He very kindly had a chat with elder children about his experience as Chaplain at Ypres and drew a BB sketch showing position of the Allies and the enemy, also spot where his brother Reginald (Royal Dragoons) was killed at the “front”. Teachers and children greatly appreciated Fr Barnett’s kindness as he is recovering from frost bite...” EC26/3St Patrick’s Mixed School.*

*“Pte W S Rees late teacher of this school called. He had been wounded at Mametz Wood and had recovered. Pte C Counsell an old boy called. He had been wounded on the Somme.” EC21/3 Radnor Road Boys.*

*“ Capt Fr Barnett OSB home for few days leave and gave a very interesting lesson on the War on Tues 21. He showed the anti-gas helmets worn in the trenches, shrapnel, pieces of shells etc.” EC26/3 St Patrick’s Mixed School.*

*“Miss Phillips and Miss Jones took classes 1 and 2 for walk this morning to see the soldiers drilling in the Barracks.” EC9/1 Gabalfa Junior.*

The level of casualties at the Front also had an ongoing and significant impact on the lives of many staff in schools.

*“Miss McNamara absent afternoon of the 19<sup>th</sup> and also Tues 20<sup>th</sup> owing to the death of her brother James on HMS Hawke which was sunk by the Germans on the 15<sup>th</sup>.” EC26/3 St Patrick’s Mixed School.*

*“Miss McCarthy absent owing to the death of her brother - killed in action on the Front. Dennis McCarthy was one of the “old boys” of St Patrick’s. Three teachers have lost brothers during the past fortnight – two of them in the War.” EC26/3 St Patrick’s Mixed School.*

*“Mrs Jones absent with leave owing to the return of her husband from Salonika” EC21/3 Radnor Road Boys.*

*“Edna Watt brought fragments of shrapnel from bombardment of West Hartlepool by German ships. The shell exploded in her uncle’s house and she brought some pieces fit for exhibition.” ESEC66/11/1 City of Cardiff High School for Girls.*

*“Mrs Morgan was absent from school owing to the death of her brother in Salonika.” EC22/12 St German’s Girls.*

*“Mrs G M Gough has obtained a fortnight’s leave of absence owing to the illness and discharge of her husband from His Majesty’s Forces” EC23/1 St Mary’s Infant, Bute Terrace.*

*“Mr Williams absent today - he has had the bad news that his brother has been killed in Palestine.” EC24/7 St Mary’s Mixed and Infants, Clarence Road.*

*“Burial of one of our Old Boys Driver George Herbert ASC. After service in France he was invalided home. He died from consumption. School closed at 4pm to permit the boys to see the funeral.” EC6/5 Crwys Road Boys Mixed.*

**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. The records were prompted in part by the local authority request that all schools set up a Roll of Honour. One head teacher, at least, noted the practical difficulties in maintaining such a roll.

*“St David’s Day. Address by Governors on Patriotism and Loyalty. Reference to school roll of honour (over 100) of those serving in Army or Navy. Three old boys killed in action. 1 William Walton aged 19, RN HMS Amphion, first citizen of Cardiff to give his life in present war. Aug 1914. 2. Dennis McCarthy, Rifle Brigade Oct 1914. 3 Reginald Barnett, Corporal First Dragoon Guards, Nov 1918.” EC26/3 St Patrick’s Mixed School.*

*“Mr A Pickard today at Buckingham Palace to receive at the hands of HM the King, the MC for services rendered during the war.” EC14/4 Kitchener Road Boys.*

*“Lieutenant H J Gales Assistant master of this school. Entered as Private in Cardiff Pals (2<sup>nd</sup> Welsh) on Sept 1 1914. Obtained Military Medal, Commission, Military Cross. Killed in action.” EC44/2/1 Roath Park Primary School.*

*“Mr Reginald Hickey member of staff died in France on July 9 1917 from wounds received in battle.... Lieutenant Alexander Holland Moore of this staff died in France fighting for his country.... The Head Master notes with regret that Mr William Morgan BA, first assistant of this school, died on July 30 1918” EC14/4 Kitchener Road Boys.*

*“Received a visit from an old pupil Clifford Morgan who had been wounded in France. He has been awarded the Medaille Militaire by the French Government.” EC21/3 Radnor Rd Boys.*

*“The Education Office has sent for a Roll of Honour for the school. It will be very difficult to make and can never be complete because the old boys have gone all over the world and I have lost sight of so many of them.” EC24/7 St Mary’s Mixed and Infants, Clarence Road.*

*“Up to date the Roll of Honour of our old boys shows that two gold medals (for destroying Zep L15), two Military Crosses, eleven Military Medals and one DCM have been won in this war. One of our boys holds the rank of Captain and two that of Lieutenant.” EC31/4 Stacey Road Boys.*

*“Roll of Honour Stacey Road Boys. No on roll – 760. Killed – 84. Wounded – 106. Military Cross – 5. DCM – 1. Military Medals – 16. Military Service medal – 3. Croix de Guerre – 1. Gold Medals – 2. Mentioned in despatches – 4. EC31/4 Stacey Rd Boys.*

**A World War.** One school, Grangetown Boys, included in its log book a number of press clippings related to former pupils and teachers serving in the forces. The selection below underlines the fact that for while for many recruits from Cardiff 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..

*“Press cutting with photograph. The cutting from the SW Echo refers to one of our old boys.*

*His Third Wound. Private Henry Ions, Royal Warwickshire Regiment transferred from the Welsh Regiment is a son of Mr and Mrs J Ions, 46 Redlaver Street , Cardiff. He has recently been wounded for the third time, receiving injuries in the right arm and right leg. He had previously been hit at the Dardanelles in July 1915 and at the Somme offensive in 1916. He is now in Carlisle Hospital having arrived in England on this 23<sup>d</sup> birthday. Before the war he was employed by Lewis and Tyler.” EC41/1/1 Grangetown Boys.*

*“Press cuttings with photograph. The above cuttings refer to old boys of this school.*

*Honoured by the French. Lance Sergeant J H Withers, Royal Marine Artillery, son of Mr and Mrs Withers of 17 Bromfield Street, Grangetown, Cardiff has been awarded the Croix de Guerre for devotion to duty. He was mentioned in the Despatches of the Jutland battle when serving on HMS Warrior which put up so gallant a fight. He volunteered for service at the front last August and has been once wounded. He has served thirteen years with the Royal Marines. “EC41/1/1 Grangetown Boys.*

*“Press Cutting from South Wales Echo referring to one of our old boys Gold Medal Gunner – Gunner Clifford Hancock, Royal Garrison Artillery whose home is at 16 Bromfield Street, Grangetown has received a Gold Medal from the Lord Mayor of London for his service in the destruction of Zeppelin L15. Gunner Hancock who was a blacksmith when enlisted was a scholar of Grangetown Council School.” EC41/1/1 Grangetown Boys.*

*“Press cuttings with photograph. The under mentioned Private Large was an old scholar here.*

*Brave Ambulance Men Three members of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Welsh Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps have been recommended by their commanding*

*officer for bravery in Gallipoli and pending recognition have been promoted Lance- Corporals. They are Privates C Morgan, HA Large and AE Bryant all of Cardiff. Under heavy fire they brought wounded soldiers into a place of safety.” EC41/1/1 Grangetown Boys.*

**Celebrating the End of the War.** While the news of the signing of the Armistice took time to get through to some areas of south Wales, schools in Cardiff were alerted to the end of the war by the ringing of Church bells and the noise from factory hooters across the town. Many schools simply record the signing of the Armistice and the short school holiday that followed. This may be because some schools in south Wales were in the grip of an epidemic of Spanish Influenza that resulted in closure for periods before and after 11 November 1918. However, many did take the opportunity to express the joy and delight that accompanied the Armistice and the return of soldiers.

*“Towards 11 o’clock it became evident by the blowing of hooters and other noises that the Armistice treaty with Germany had at last been signed and the local newspapers had published a report that the moment the news arrived the schools would be closed. The scholars were assembled in the yard, cheers were given and they were dismissed as 11.30. Later on a circular arrived stating that no school would be held for the rest of the week.” EC24/7, St Mary’s Mixed and Infants, Clarence Road.*

*“On receipt of the news that an armistice has been signed and the Great European War thus ended the children were dismissed at 11.30 for the rest of the day after singing the National Anthem, Mae Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau and the Doxology.” EC 6/4 Crwys Road Girls.*

*“School closed this morning for a week’s holiday owing to the Armistice being signed. Before dismissing at 11.30 am we had a mass meeting of all Departments in the Boys Playground to give vent to the general thankfulness and enthusiasm.” EC23/1 St Marys Infant, Bute Terrace.*

*“When the signal was given that the Armistice was signed the children ceased work, listened to the bells ringing and hooters blowing, cheered and sang songs. They were then dismissed for the rest of the day.” EC25/2 St Patrick’s RC Infants, Grangetown.*

*“A day’s holiday was given so that the children could visit some captured guns on view in Whitchurch.” EC 9/1 Gabalfa Junior.*

By the early months of 1919 many teachers were being discharged from the armed forces and returning to school life.

*“Mr Harry Matthews (T Cert) resumes duties after Military Service since July 1914.” EC23/7 St Mary’s National Boys, Bute Terrace.*

*“Mr D Richards a member of this Staff who has been on military duties resumed school duties this afternoon. After prayers the headmaster welcomed Mr Richards on his return and congratulated him upon having emerged from this World War so satisfactorily. The headmaster thanked Mr Richards for what he and all the teachers who has served similarly had done to save us from the menace of an inhuman foe. The boys showed their appreciation of these remarks by their loud applause.” EC27/2 Severn Road.*