

## Daniel Mason, RFA – 29<sup>th</sup> September 1918 (Age 20).

### 160577 – Driver Daniel Mason – C Battery, CXXIV Brigade, Royal Field Artillery

Daniel was born in 1898, probably at 7 Sheep Cottages, Pritchard Row, Claw-y-plwyf in the [ancient] Parish of Mynyddyslwyn. Claw-y-plwyf was a hamlet North of Ynysddu and near the Cae'r-llwyn Colliery, but Daniel grew up at 2 Garth Place in Rudry where the family was listed in 1901 and where his older Brother Enoch was still living in 1939.

His Father, also Daniel (born 1862 – a coal miner) and his Mother Myra (born 1862) were both from Kingswinford in Staffordshire. Daniel Junior had two brothers, Thomas John (born 1885) and Enoch (born 1891) and four sisters, Annie (b.15/03/1887), Edith (b.1890), Dorothy Minnie (b.1895) and Lily Maud (b.1901).

The 1911 census sees the family still at 2 Garth Place with Thomas John and Enoch working as Miners. Annie had left in 1910 marrying Charles Edgar Morgan, also from Rudry (an engine fitter) at St James' Church and setting up home in Rogerstone along with young Dorothy Minnie (aged 15) who was by then a dress maker's apprentice. Dorothy married a tinsmith worker called Eldred Richards in 1922 and moved to Abercarn. Lily Maud married John James Davies in Hirwaun in 1916. Edith married Idris Morgan Burris (b.1889), who also lived at Garth Place, at St James' Church in 1912.

We can find very little information regarding Daniel's military service save that at some point he joined the Royal Field Artillery (RFA) and fought in France. The RFA was the largest arm of the artillery, responsible for the reasonably mobile medium calibre guns and Howitzers deployed close to the front lines.

The 124<sup>th</sup> Brigade, RFA was part of the 37<sup>th</sup> Division and during 1918 covered the Battle of the Ancre during April, the Battle of Albert in August and the September fighting at the Hindenburg Line. It appears that the final battle for Daniel was the Battle of the Canal-du-Nord which began on 27<sup>th</sup> September 1918. The battle, which lasted until 1<sup>st</sup> October saw 30,000 losses, including Daniel.



German prisoners carrying wounded past a 6-inch Howitzer of the RFA in position near Inchy, Canal du Nord, September 1918

Daniel was wounded and died from those wounds on 29<sup>th</sup> September 1918. He is buried at Ruyaulcourt Military Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France.



Daniel's Mother Myra died in 1930 aged 68 and his Father Daniel in 1939 aged 77 – both are buried in St James' Churchyard.

Daniel's brother Enoch married Eurfran Powell (b.16/07/1895) and in 1939 was listed at 2 Garth Place with two children, Reginald Vivian (born 23/02/1915) and Iris (born 23/01/1920). Both Enoch and Reginald worked underground as Colliery Hewers. Enoch died 28<sup>th</sup> August 1969 and was also buried in St James' Churchyard. Reginald died in 2007. Iris married John T Coles in 1945 and died in 2017.