

Hubert Morgan, RFA – 13th October 1918 (Age 19).

74351 – Gunner Hubert Morgan – C Battery, 189th Brigade, Royal Field Artillery (41st Division)

The War Diaries of the 189th are not available beyond April 1917 so there is some uncertainty in these details.

However, as there was only one soldier named Hubert Morgan being recorded among the WW1 dead of the Royal Field Artillery, we believe the military information set out is correct.



As for Hubert's family and background, he was born near the Ebenezer Congregational Chapel in Rudry on 8th October 1898, meaning he had just turned 20 years old when he died. His parents were William Henry Morgan, a coal miner from Pentyrch (b.1868) and Mary Ann (née Moses) Morgan from Rudry (b. 30/09/1870). They were married in 1890 and spoke both Welsh and English as did the children.

Hubert had six brothers, William Thomas (b.1893), Trevor (b.24/05/1895), Ernest (b.1897), Jalesin (b.1904), Garfield (b.08/07/1906) and Glyndwr (b.1908). He had two sisters, Annie Mary (b.1901) and Jennat (b.1903).

We think the family may have lived at 16 Woodland Terrace in Senghenydd (a row of miners' cottages) for a while as it appears that Hubert and Trevor attended the Graig Board School in Pontypridd and the record notes they both previously attended 'Rudry Council School'. Hubert left Graig school on 30th March 1908 with Trevor having left the previous year. In 1910, Garfield was at Maes-Y-Coed infants in Pontypridd but the register notes he 'left district' on 11/11/1910'.

The family moved had moved to 49 Dol-y-felin Street in Caerphilly as this is where they were recorded in 1911 with William, Trevor and their Father working as Coal Miner Hewers. Hewers were the men [and boys] who used hand tools to 'pick' at the coal face, often in very confined spaces where they would work on their hands and knees.

Hubert was still at school, but we don't know where. Ernest was living with his uncle Thomas Moses and his great aunt Ann Watkins in a cottage by Rudry Mill (which was run by Lewis Moses). Even without Ernest, there were ten people living in a small house!

Hubert enlisted in Caerphilly although we do not know exactly when he joined the 189th RFA.

The 189th Brigade was raised in September 1915 and was referred to as the 'Hackney Gun Brigade' and proceeded to France in May 1916. There were four batteries, lettered A, B, C and D. Each battery had four 18-pounder field guns. By November 1916 the batteries had six guns each.

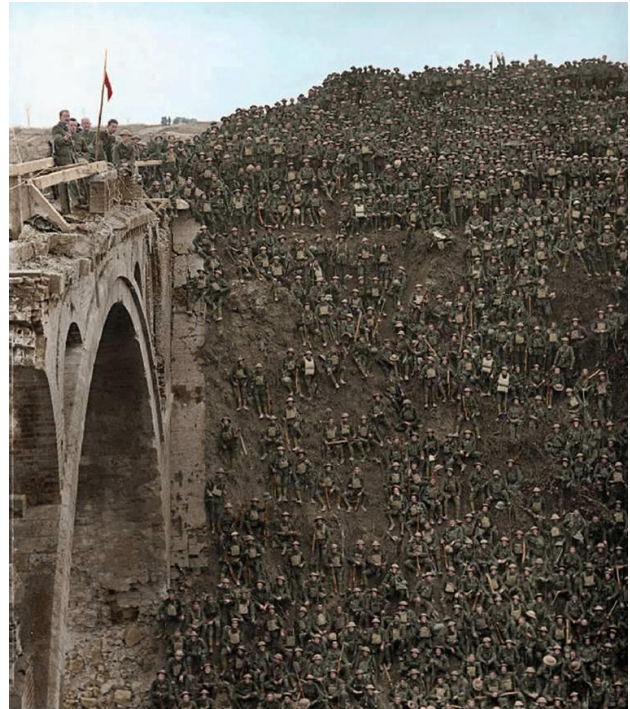
[Picture Right] Gunners of the Royal Field Artillery getting an 18-pounder gun into action alongside a ruined cottage, near Saint-Floris, Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France 2nd May 1918.

C Battery served in France from May 1916 to April 1919.



We have not, as yet, been able to ascertain the precise circumstances or even the battle at which Hubert fell, but it was likely in connection with the battle to take the final obstacle, the Hindenburg Line.

Brigadier General JC Campbell, VC, CMG, DSO addressing troops from the Riqueval Bridge after breaking the Hindenburg Line defences



In any event, Hubert was wounded and died from those wounds on 13th October 1918. He is buried in the Queant Communal Cemetery British Extension.



Postscript

Before Hubert died in 1918, tragedy had already befallen his family. His Father William Snr, brothers William Jnr and Ernest and his uncle Thomas Moses were all killed in the Senghenydd Mining Disaster on 14th October 1913 – they were buried at St James' Churchyard on 18th October.

Hubert's widowed Mother was recorded in 1939 as living at 9 Mill Road, next door to Garfield, his wife Lilian and their children Pearl and Godfrey at number 7. Garfield was still working as a Hewer.