

W.E. Lewis, 16th Welch – 17th October 1916 (Age 22).

56556 – Private Walter Edward (Glyn) Lewis – 16th (Cardiff City) Battalion, Welch Regiment

Walter was born in 1895 in Cathays, Cardiff. His Father was David Walter Lewis (b.1865) and Mother Amelia, née Owens (b.1874). At some point Walter, his parents and brother Thomas Edgar Owen Lewis (b. 26/08/1896), were living at 52 Penarth Road but then moved to 179 Corporation Street in Newport where they were joined by Minnie Medora Madge Lewis, born 1903. They then moved to 5 Waterloo Terrace, Waterloo from where Walter's Father worked as a tin worker at Waterloo works. All the family were Welsh speakers.



We don't know when Walter joined up but we know his younger brother Thomas also joined the Welch Regiment in 1914 – it is likely they joined at the same time. Thomas survived the war although he was wounded in October 1918. Also, in 1918 (now serving in the 3rd Battalion and noted at 5 Waterloo Terrace), he married Norah Hawksley (b.17/01/1897). They had four children, Walter Edgar Owen (b.19/02/19), Carrina (b.10/01/21), Alan B (b.17/08/27) and Joyce (b.17/04/33). In 1939 Thomas and family were living at 15 Bishton Street, Newport and he was a retail milk salesman.

The brothers' 16th Battalion fought alongside the 16th Battalion of the Royal Welch Fusiliers.

After the July 1916 fighting at Mametz Wood, the 38th (Welsh) Division, including Walter's 16th Battalion, Welch Regiment, moved north to the Hebuterne front. Here, and still on the Somme, the men of the Battalion were mainly occupied in digging advance trenches in No Man's Land.

At the beginning of August, the Division moved north again. This time to the Ypres Salient and trenches close to Wieltje. It was in this sector that twenty-two-year-old Walter was wounded and died of those wounds on 17th October 1916.

His was buried at Mendinghem Military Cemetery in Belgium, along with another 2,433 identified casualties.



An article published in the Weekly Argus in November 1916, under the Machen headline, quoted a letter from the Wesleyan Chaplain to the father of Private W.E. (Glyn) Lewis conveying the news that *"a successful operation notwithstanding, he passed away on the 16th May you be comforted by the fact that he gave his life for a noble cause"*. [Military records note the 17th, not the 16th...]

Postscript

Walter's Mother died shortly after in 1917 aged 43 and is buried at St James' Church as is his Father who died in 1931 aged 66. His Brother Thomas died 26th April 1961.