

**Baptist Chapelyard,  
Blaenau Gwent, Wales**

**War Grave**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**20383 SERJEANT**

**J. E. DAY**

**SOUTH WALES BORDERERS**

**15TH DECEMBER, 1918**

## James Edward DAY

James Edward Day was born on 28th December, 1894 at Abertillery, Blaenau Gwent, Wales to parents James and Mary Day (nee Lewis).

The 1901 Wales Census recorded James Edward Day as a 6 year old, living with his family in a 4 roomed dwelling at 4 Morgan Street, Abertillery, Monmouthshire, Wales. His parents were listed as James Day (Stone Mason, aged 27, born Writtle, Essex) & Mary Day (aged 27, born Treherbert, Glamorgan). James was one of three children listed on this Census – James then William H. Day (aged 4, born Cwmtylery, Monmouthshire) & Edmund Day (aged 9 months, born Cwmtylery, Monmouthshire). Also listed was a Boarder – Alexander Sweet (Stone Mason, aged 36, born Cardiff, Wales).

James Edward Day enlisted in the South Wales Borderers at Ebbw Vale. He was given a service number of 20383.

From The Welsh Army Corps Records:

### **Western Command**

*Orders by Lieut.-Gen. Sir W. Pitcairn Campbell, K.C.B., Commanding-in-Chief*

*Head-quarters, Chester, Tuesday, 28th March, 1916*

#### **GENERAL STAFF**

*1. Rifle Course, School of Musketry, Altcar*

*The following Officers and Non-commissioned Officers qualified as Instructors at the 20th Rifle Course, which terminated on the 9th March, 1916.*

.....

*2nd Class Instructors –*

.....

*20383 Corporal J. E. Day, 13th Battalion, South Wales Borderers.*

.....

### **13th (Reserve) Battalion**

13th Battalion was formed at St. Asaph in July, 1915 as a Reserve Battalion. They moved to Kinmel Park (Rhyl) in September.

On 1st September, 1916 they converted to 59th Training Reserve Battalion of 13th Reserve Brigade.

James Edward Day was later attached to 10th Battalion, South Wales Borderers.

### **10th (Service) Battalion (1st Gwent)**

10th Battalion was formed at Brecon in October, 1914 by the Welsh National Executive Committee. They moved by end of December, 1914 to Colwyn Bay and came under the orders of 130th Brigade, 43rd Division.

On 29th April, 1915 the formation was renamed 115th Brigade, 38th (Welsh) Division. They moved to Hursley Park (Winchester) in July, 1915 and later to Hazeley Down.

The 10th Battalion landed at Le Havre on 4th December, 1915.

*[Unfortunately little information is known regarding the service of Serjeant James Edward Day as his Service Record does not appear to be available.]*

James Edward Day, Soldier, aged 24, of High Street, Ebbw Vale was a passenger on S.S. *Elmina* which arrived at the port of Liverpool, England on 25th November, 1918. His country of last permanent residence was listed as W. Africa.

Serjeant James Edward Day died on 15th December, 1918 at Ebbw Vale, Monmouthshire, Wales from illness.

The UK Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914 – 1919 records Sergeant Edward Day died: Theatre of War – Home.

A death for James E. Day, aged 23, was registered in the December quarter, 1918 in the district of Bedwellty, Monmouthshire, Wales.

Serjeant James Edward Day was buried in Blaenau Gwent Baptist Chapelyard, Monmouthshire, Wales – Reference 23.43 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

The UK Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects 1901 – 1929 (British West Indies, Miscellaneous, South Africa) records James Edward Day, 20383, "*Acting Sergeant South Wales Borderers late 51 Grad Bn Cheshire & Nigeria Regt 4/8025*" having died of illness at Ebbwvale on "15.2.18."

The UK Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects 1901 – 1929 (Effects, Unissued Balance) records Day, J. E., 10th Welsh Regt, Cpl. A/Sgt 4/8025 then 20383 having died 15.12.18 at Ebbw Vale.

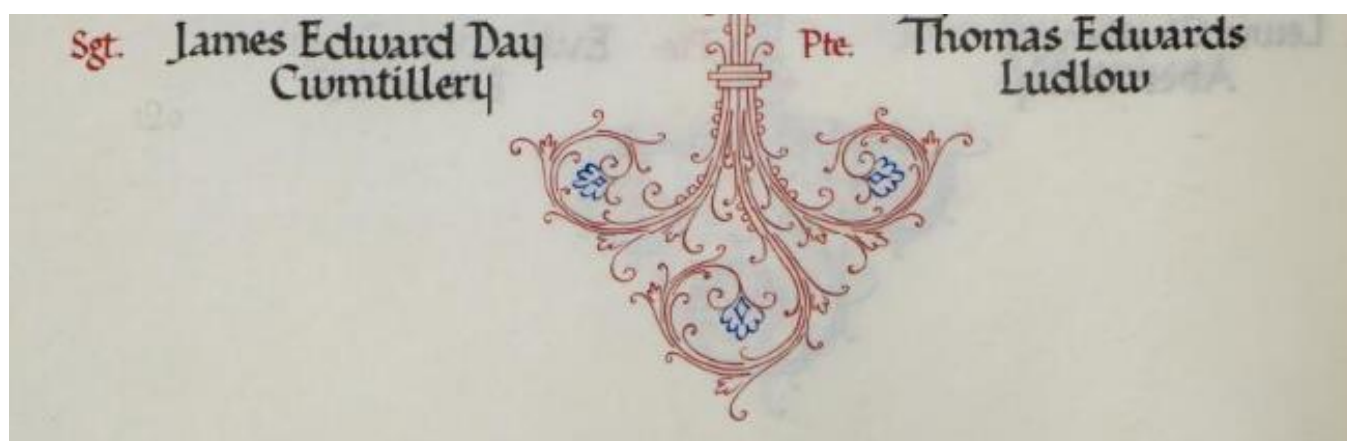
Probate details:

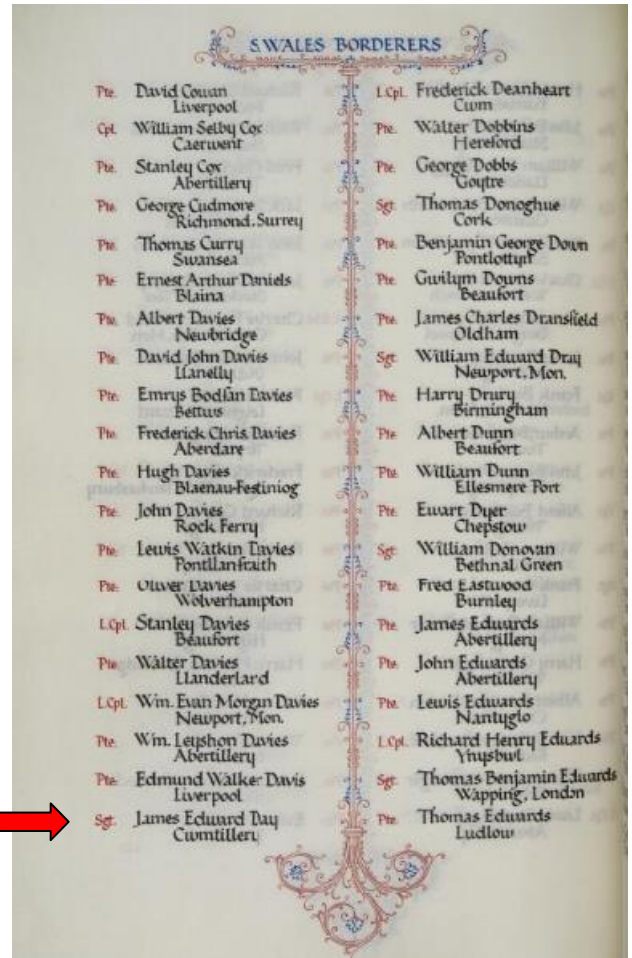
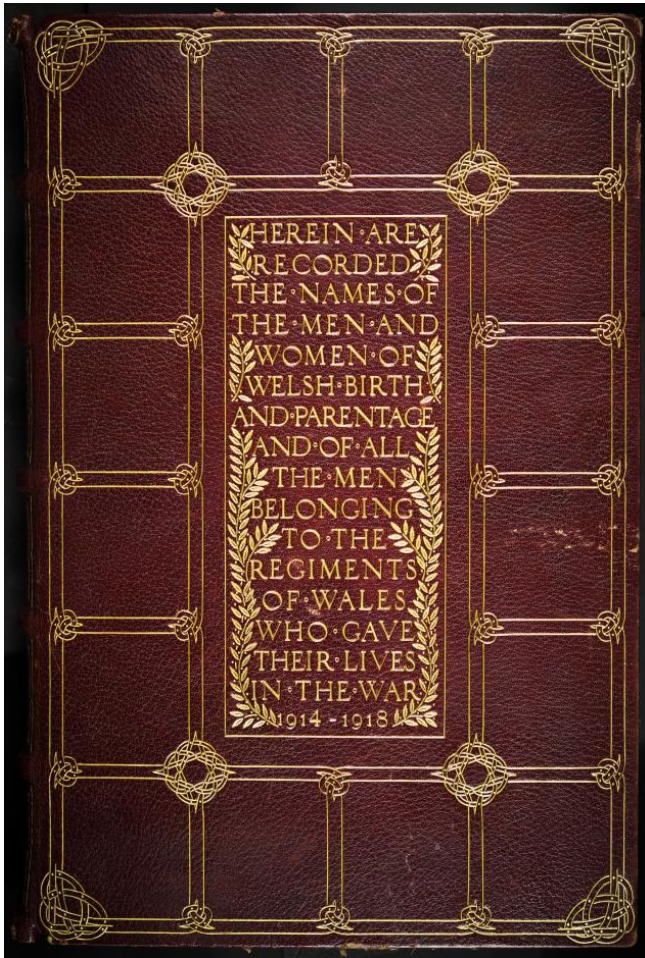
Day, James Edward of 3 High-street Ebbw Vale, Monmouthshire, a sergeant in the South Wales Borderers died 15 December, 1918. Administration Llandaff 19 August to James Day, Mason. Effects £120 13s 7d.

Serjeant James Edward Day was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. His Medal Index Card does not recorded when he entered a Theatre of War.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Serjeant James Edward Day – service number 20383, aged 25, of 10th Battalion, South Wales Borderers. He was the son of James and Mary Day, of 4 Church St., Waverley, Sydney, Australia.

Sgt James Edward Day is remembered in the Welsh National Book of Remembrance for World War 1 (page 120). It contains the names of 35,000 servicemen and women, as well as members of Welsh Regiments, who lost their lives in the First World War. These individuals are listed according to regiment and battalion.





The Welsh National Book of Remembrance for World War 1

The Ebbw Vale Civic War Memorial, located at Libanus Road, Ebbw Vale, Wales does not list individual names.

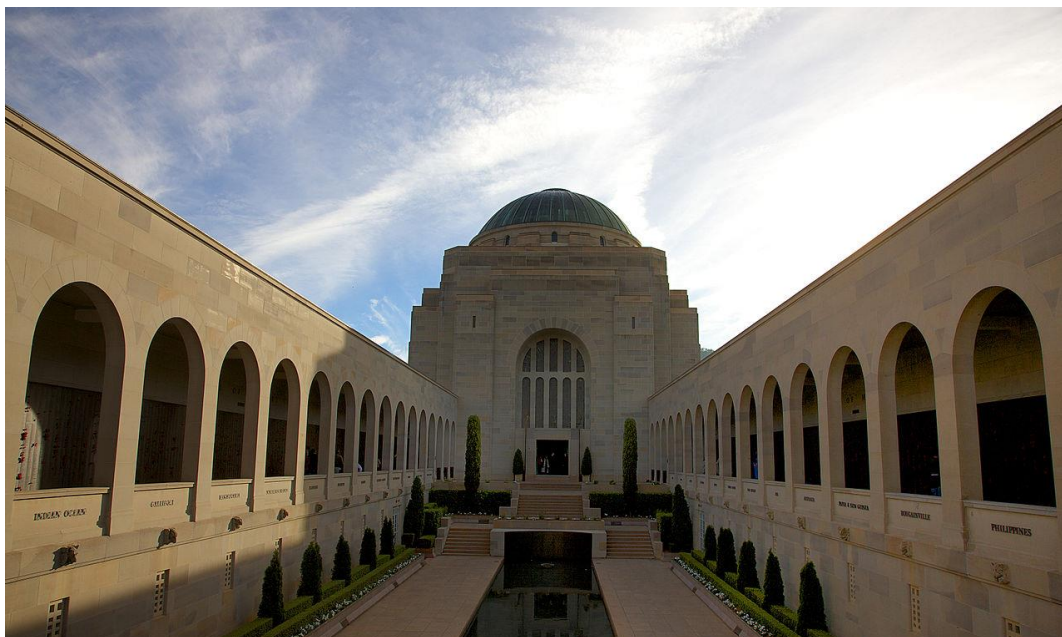


Ebbw Vale Civic War Memorial

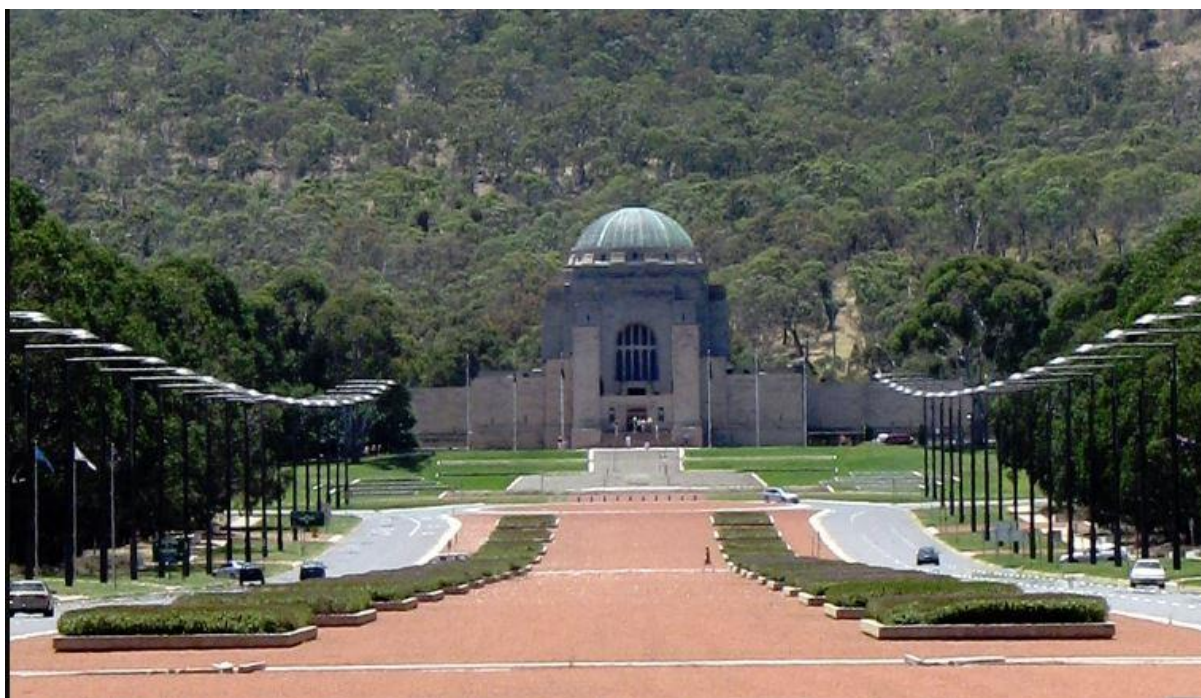
Sergeant James Edward Day is remembered on the Commemorative Roll Book, located in the Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra. The Commemorative Roll records the names of those Australians who died during or as a result of wars in which Australians served, but who were not serving in the Australian Armed Forces and therefore not eligible for inclusion on the Roll of Honour.

*(Note: It appears that Sergeant James Edward Day's name on the Commemorative Roll may have been listed in error. Names were added to the Roll based on the information that the next-of-kin's address was listed as Australia & therefore the soldier concerned, it was assumed, would be Australian.)*

[Sergeant James Edward Day's parents left England & arrived on *Demosthenes* arriving in Sydney, NSW on 14th March, 1925. They settled at Maclean, NSW]



**Commemorative Area of the Australian War Memorial** (*Capital Photographer*)





**James Edward Day**



**Blaenau Gwent Baptist Chapelyard, Monmouthshire, Wales**

Blaenau Gwent Baptist Chapelyard contains 13 Commonwealth War Graves – 10 from World War 1 & 3 from World War 2.



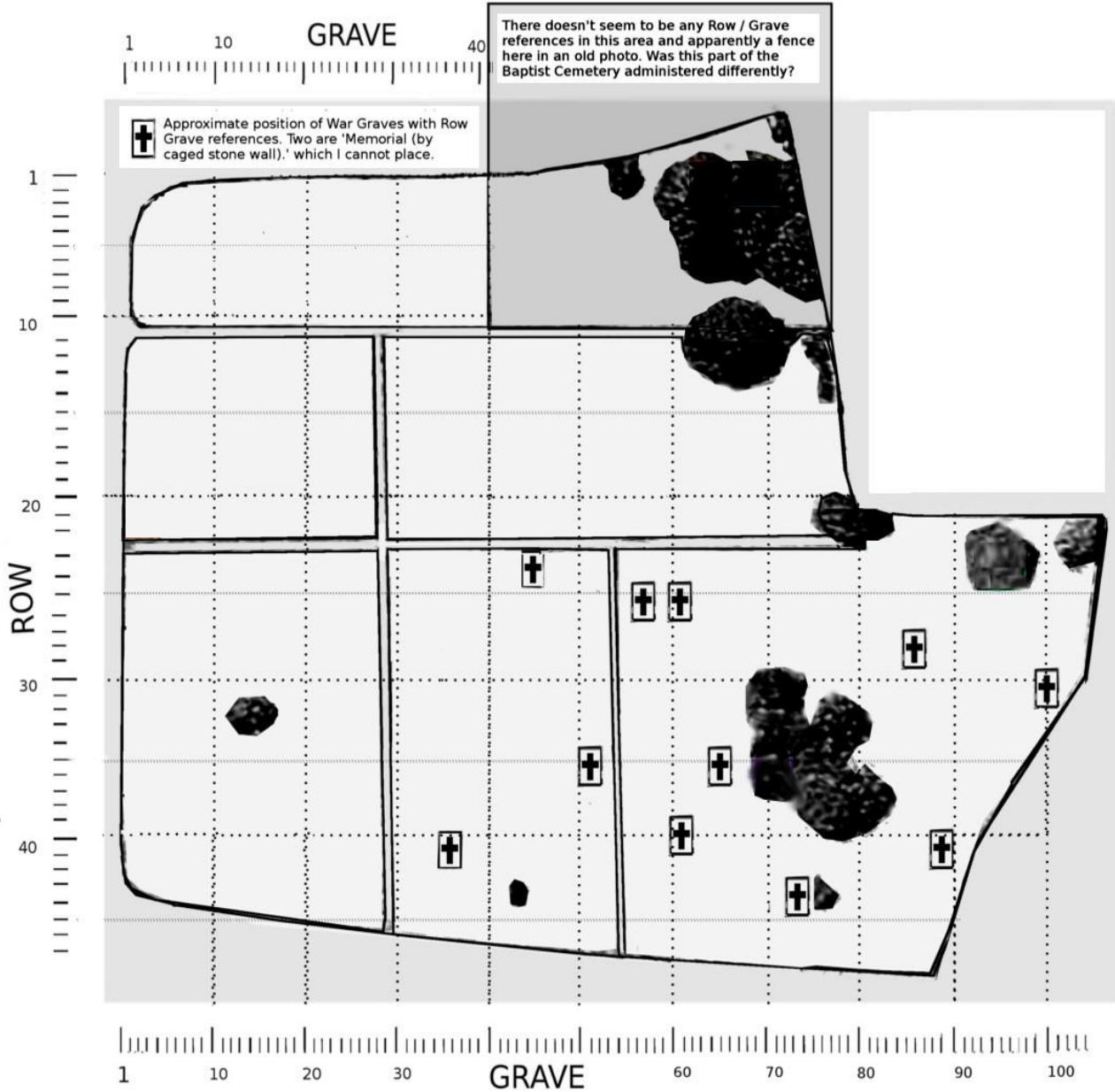
*(Photo courtesy of Peter Bennett)*

Photo of Serjeant J. E. Day's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Blaenau Gwent Baptist Chapelyard, Monmouthshire, Wales



*(Photo courtesy of Peter Bennett)*

# Blaenau Gwent Baptist Chapel Graveyard



Constructed from "Purchasers of Graves 1878 - 1989" and "Monumental Inscriptions" from the Gwent Family History Society.