

GUNNER DAVID JONES (160148)

RFA (ROYAL FIELD ARTILLERY and ROYAL HORSE ARTILLERY)

David was the son of David and Ann Jones. In the 1901 Census, they were living at Cae Mab Ithel in Llanrhychwyn. His father was a slate quarryman. It was a large family. David had two older brothers, John and Morris, a younger sister, Mary, and twin brothers, Henry and Sachariah. There was also a servant, Ellen Jones, aged 16, and two boarders, Thomas Jones, 19, a lead miner, and John H. Jones aged 16, a slate quarryman.

By the 1911 Census, the family had moved to Penrallt, Llanrhychwyn. Both David and his father are recorded as miners. The Census also records that David and Ann had been married 23 years and had had nine children, two of whom had died.

David's paternal grandfather was Morris Jones, a farmer from Hafod Arthen.

David enlisted in Bangor but we do not know the date, as his service record appears not to have survived. He was killed in action on 27th July 1917 aged 24 near Arras and is buried in La Targette cemetery, Neuville-Saint-Vaast, Pas de Calais, France.

The Battle of Arras was begun on April 9th, Easter Monday, 1917, with a tremendous battery of German lines.

It was intended as a diversionary tactic as the German armies were also fighting the Russians on the Eastern Front. Artillery was central to battle plans. Since the early years of the war, warfare had become more sophisticated: recruits were well trained; guns were plentiful and more effective. Soldiers had learned the mechanics of shells in flight and could target enemy lines more effectively. They exploded on contact, making it easier to clear away barbed wire, and smoke shells were routinely exploded to mask attacks. Photographic reconnaissance meant armies had better knowledge of enemy positions.

In spite of all this, the British made little headway at Arras and casualties were heavy – 150,000 men – the highest daily average in the war, worse even than the battle of the Somme.

Sources:

1871 Census

1891 Census

1901 Census

1911 Census

UK Soldiers Who Died in the Great War 1914-18

In Memory of

Gunner

D Jones

160148, 462nd Bty. 179th Bde., Royal Field Artillery who died on 27 July 1917

Remembered with Honour

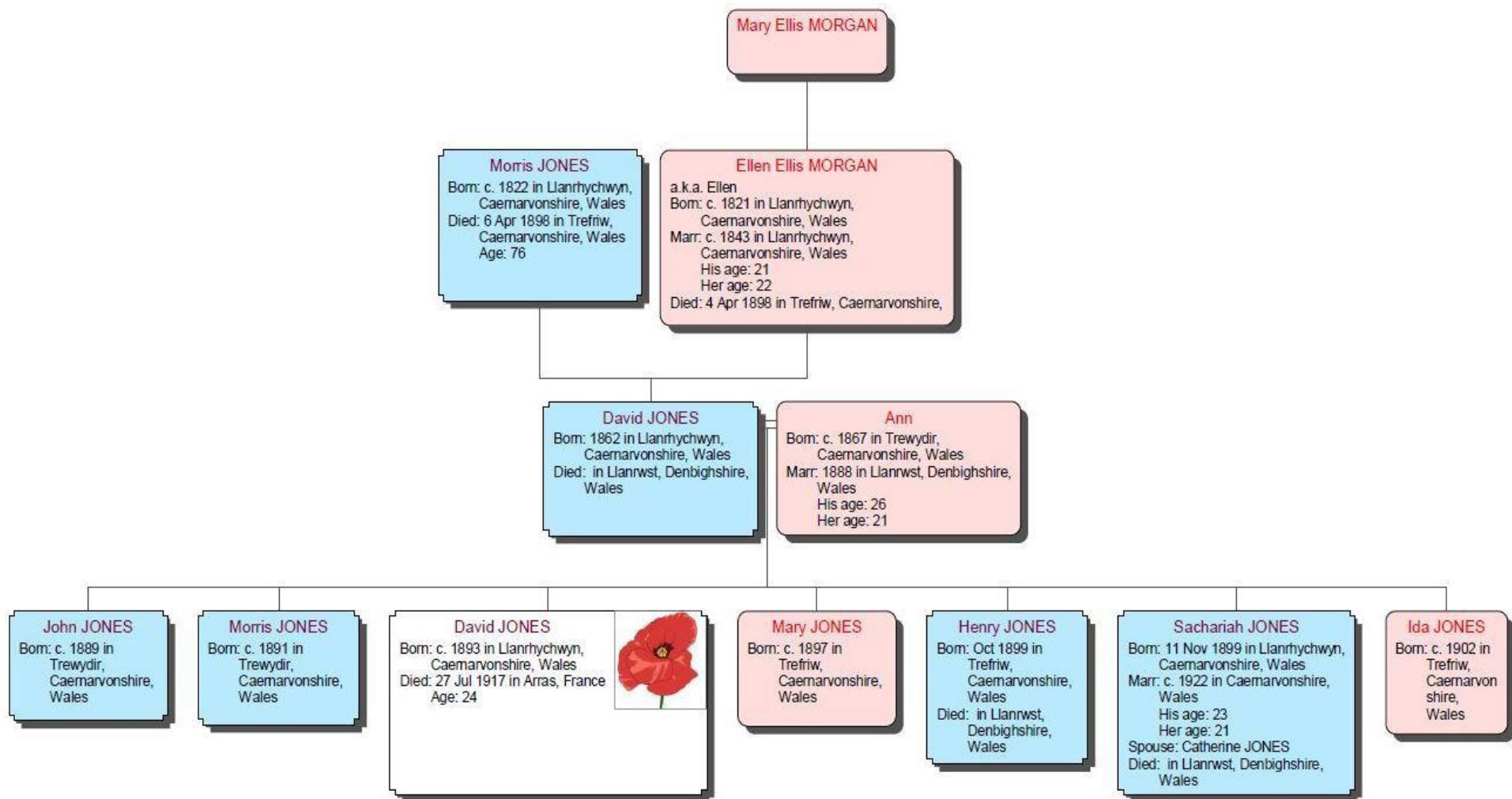
La Targette British Cemetery, Neuville-St. Vaast



Commemorated in perpetuity by
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Pen-Rallt, former home of
Gunner David Jones



Gunner David Jones Ancestors