

# Bathing Fatality.

## Distressing Brecon Incident.

### ABERBEEG GIRL-GUIDE OFFICER'S MIS-ADVENTURE.

A sad and distressing bathing fatality occurred at Brecon on Wednesday afternoon of last week when a girl of 19 years of age was drowned while bathing in the river usk at Newton Pool, Brecon. She was one of a company of Girl Guide officers who were holding a training camp at Ffrewdgrech, Brecon. A party of these officers (all swimmers) went to the river for a bathe and took the deceased (Miss Elizabeth Ann Jones, Penycodcae, Aberbeeg, Mon.), who could not swim, with them, having promised to give her a swimming lesson. This they did and then went for a swim lower down the river, leaving Miss Jones and warning her not to follow them into the deep water. When they looked up there later they saw only a pair of hands above the water, and were too late to render help. The incident was witnessed, among others, by Mrs D. W. E. Thomas, who was on the river in a boat, and who attempted to render aid to the girl but failed. A girl of 15, of the name of Vaughan, pluckily jumped into the water, without divesting herself of any clothing, and made an unsuccessful attempt at rescue. Miss Going, who was at the time about to bathe, also swam to deceased's aid, but the girl struggled so violently and caught hold of both her hands - pulling her down, that, by the time she had freed herself, she was exhausted and had to swim back to the bank. Other attempts were also made by Col. Pearce, and others, but without avail. The body, which had completely disappeared, was recovered by a railwayman named Samuel Hatton, who found it in a hole. Artificial respiration proved futile. Deceased was a school-teacher. The sad event cast quite a gloom over the town and Girl Guide Officers' Camp.

#### The Inquest.

The inquest was conducted by Mr W. Jones-Williams (deputy-coroner) at the Shire Hall, Brecon, on Thursday evening, when Mr G. T. Jones was foreman of the jury.

Evidence of identification was given by the father, Mr Adam Jones, farmer (Penycodcae farm, Penyfan, Aberbeeg, Monmouthshire), who, at the inquest, deposed he last saw his daughter alive on the previous Friday, before she left for the Girl Guide Officers' Camp at Brecon. She was not used to bathing and could not swim. She was perfectly healthy and not subject to fits.

Replying to the Foreman of the jury, Mr Jones said his daughter had once bathed in the baths at Aber-tillery and had got into difficulties there.

Elizabeth Agnes Thomas, wife of Lieut.-Col. D. W. E. Thomas, stated she was boating on the river the previous day about 4 p.m., and was between the boat-house and the men's bathing pavilion. There were several people bathing. She saw the deceased, who was with another girl, holding her hands up. She could not have been out of her depth because the other girl was not. She noticed her for a very long time with her hands above the water and her head under and thought she was playing, and doing some trick. The girl with deceased shouted in a very quiet voice for help, and she (Mrs Thomas) then asked her

out by a tide.

Joan Mary Marjorie Going, daughter of Col. Going in command of Brecon Barracks, deposed she was about to bathe at 4 o'clock on the afternoon in question, when she saw a girl holding her hands up. She thought she heard the girl call "help," but it was very faint and she would not be sure. The girl was then alone, and five to six yards from the Promenade bank. Deceased put up her hands and went under and then came up and went under again. She (Miss Going) immediately swam out to the girl, whose hands she could see above the water all the time. She got hold of the girl, but she struggled violently and got hold of her and pulled her down. Witness then struggled free of deceased. She was out of her depth, and feeling exhausted went back to the bank and called to the people there and Mrs Thomas in the boat.

Miss Going, replying to questions, said she did not notice any current. When she first saw the girl with her hands up she thought she was doing some trick. When she freed herself the deceased must have gone under. She caught hold of what she took to be the girl's head, but it turned out to be her cap. She had had no instruction in life-saving. The girl got hold of both her hands.

Samuel Hatton, Victoria Place, Brecon, railway engine driver, deposed that he went to the boat-house to see what was the matter and on being told went into a boat with Mrs Thomas, who rowed across the pool while he endeavoured to recover the body with a boathook. The water was stained. He recovered the body out of a hole, the spot being about 10 yards from the Promenade bank. He practised artificial respiration until the doctor told him it was useless.

Answering the Foreman, Mr Hatton said he saw Col. Pearce diving in from a boat. The spot where the body was recovered was about 40 yards from the boat-house and nearer the men's bathing pavilion than the boat-house.

Dr. V. Rees stated he was called to the scene at nearly five o'clock and found deceased on the bank, the body having just been recovered. Everything possible was done to start respiration, but life was extinct when he arrived there, death being due to drowning. He saw no marks of injury on the body.

Mrs Evans, Ffrewdgrech, wife of Capt. J. D. D. Evans, said she was Girl Guide Commissioner for Breconshire and had an Officers' Training Camp, for officers from Breconshire and Monmouthshire, at her home, Ffrewdgrech, Brecon. Miss Jones, the deceased, was one of the number. Some of the girls, including deceased, wanted to go for a bathe. All were swimmers except Miss Jones, who was anxious to

# Brecon & Radnor Express

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Registered at the General Post Office as a Newspaper. Copies are sent to the Chief Magistrate of Brecon, and to the Chief Magistrate of Radnor.

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Replying to the Foreman of the jury, Mrs Thomas said that from the time she first saw the girl it was five or 10 minutes. The girl seemed to be carried out by a tide.

Joan Mary Marjorie Going, daughter of Col. Going in command of Brecon Barracks, deposed she was about to bathe at 4 o'clock on the afternoon in ques-

tion. She was one of the number. Some of the girls, including deceased, wanted to go for a bathe. All were swimmers except Miss Jones, who was anxious to learn, and to whom they promised to give a lesson. Having undressed in the ladies' pavilion, they entered the water just above the boat-house, giving Miss Jones a lesson opposite the boat-house. Then they decided to have a swimming race to the men's pavilion and warned Miss Jones to go no lower down the river while they were away, and told her they would come back for her. Later she (Mrs Evans) saw a pair of hands above the water, and Mrs Thomas going with the boat. She also saw the girl Vaughan swimming about and thought she had fallen out of the boat and Mrs Thomas was rescuing her. She saw the girl landed, but as the crowd still remained, she shouted, "Is anything the matter?" Mrs Thomas replied, "Mrs Evans, come quick." She then got out of the water and went to the scene. She heard no cry from the deceased.

Questioned by the Coroner and Foreman, Mrs Evans said the girl was lower down than where they left her and nearer the Promenade bank. Deceased knew the swimming stroke and had been told there was deep water lower down. The Corps of Girl Guide Officers had not been taught life-saving but she knew a little.

Replying to a Member of the jury, Mrs Evans further stated that the depth of water where they left deceased was up to her arm-pits. The girl complained of the cold water.

Summing up, the Coroner said the circumstances were most distressing. He thought that the commandant of the camp, Mrs Evans, was quite free of blame.

The jury returned a verdict of "Death by mis-adventure," due to drowning, and strongly recommended to the commandant of the Girl Guide Officers' Camp, especially when they have young girls like this, to carry some life-saving appliances with them, and that the corps be taught the ways and means of life-saving. The jury commended the action of the little girl Vaughan and also Miss Going.



# CENSUS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, 1911.

Number of Schedules 318  
(To be filled up by the Enumerator after collection.)

Before writing on this Schedule please read the Examples and the Instructions given on the other side of the paper, as well as the headings of the Columns. The entries should be written in Ink.

The contents of the Schedule will be treated as confidential. Strict care will be taken that no information is disclosed with regard to individual persons. The returns are not to be used for proof of age, as in connection with Old Age Pensions, or for any other purpose than the preparation of Statistical Tables.

NAME AND SURNAME	RELATIONSHIP to Head of Family.	AGE (last Birthday) and SEX.		PARTICULARS as to MARRIAGE.					PROFESSION or OCCUPATION of Persons aged ten years and upwards.			BIRTHPLACE of every Person.	NATIONALITY of every Person born in a Foreign Country.	INFIRMITY.	LANGUAGE SPOKEN.	
		For Infants under one year state the age in months as "under one month," "one month," etc.	Ages of Males.	Ages of Females.	Write "Single," "Married," "Widower," or "Widow," opposite the names of all persons aged 15 years and upwards.	State, for each Married Woman entered on this Schedule, the number of:—	Personal Occupation.	Industry or Service with which worker is connected.	Whether Employer, Worker, or Working on Own Account.	Whether Working at Home.	Whether Employed in any Trade or Industry.					Whether Employed in any Trade or Industry.
1 Adam Jones	Head	56		Married					Farmer	100	Employer	At Home	Parish of Abercrom Mon.			Both
2 Mary Jones	Wife	50	50	"	29	9	7	2				"	" " Blanketed "			"
<del>3 John D. Jones</del>	<del>son</del>	<del>28</del>		<del>Single</del>					<del>British Army</del>				<del>Parish of Altman</del>			"
4 Wm. A. Jones	Son	24		"					Farmer working for his own	0	Worker	At Home	Mon Abercrom			"
5 M. W. Jones	Daughter	19		"					" daughter " at home		4	"	"			English
<del>6 L. C. Jones</del>	<del>son</del>	<del>21</del>		"									"			Sanatic
7 S. H. Jones	Daughter	15		"					Shop	2.60	Assistant in Drapery	Worker	"			"
8 C. A. Jones	"	12		"					School	3.90		0	"			"
9 J. H. Jones	son	10		"					School	1		0	"			"
10																
11																
12																
13																
14																
15																

(To be filled up by the Enumerator.)

I certify that—		
(1) All the ages on this Schedule are entered in the proper sex columns.		
(2) I have counted the males and females in Columns 3 and 4 separately, and have compared their sum with the total number of persons.		
(3) After making the necessary enquiries I have completed all entries on the Schedules which appeared to be defective, and have corrected such as appeared to be erroneous.		
Initials of Enumerator: <u>W.H.C.</u>		
Males.	Females.	Total.
3	4	7

(To be filled up by, or on behalf of, the Head of Family or other person in occupation, or in charge, of this dwelling.)

Write below the Number of Rooms in this Dwelling (House, Tenement or Apartment). Count the kitchen as a room but do not count scullery, landing, lobby, closet, bathroom; nor warehouse, office, shop.	I declare that this Schedule is correctly filled up to the best of my knowledge and belief.
H.	Signature: <u>Adam Jones</u> Postal Address: <u>Penycroft farm Abisbey</u>



Burial in the Parish of Penmaen in the Diocese of Llandaff  
and County of Monmouth in the Year 1918.

NAME.	ABODE.	When Buried.	Age.	By whom the Ceremony was Performed.
Albert John Saunders No. 393	Oakdale	July 16 <sup>th</sup> 1918.	9 yrs	W. Rees. Curate-in-charge
John Percival Yeoman No. 394	32 Ashville Oakdale	July 17 <sup>th</sup> 1918	20 mths	W. Rees. Curate-in-charge
William Robert Morgan No. 395	2 Bowditch House	July 21 1918	42 years	W. Rees. Curate-in-charge
Mary Powell No. 396	Gurhay Farm	July 22. 1918.	54 years	W. Rees. R. W. Roberts Rural Dean Boswellly G. Gower Vicar of St. James Pontypool.
Edwin Rosser. No. 397	Tynant Asgood.	July 24 <sup>th</sup> 1918	62 yrs	W. Rees. Curate-in-charge.
Ronald Sims No. 398	3 Rhir Iyn Dafydd Avenue	Aug 5 <sup>th</sup> 1918.	17 dys	W. Rees Curate-in-charge.
Henry King No. 399	Heolddu Farm.	Aug 9 <sup>th</sup> 1918	71 yrs	W. Rees. Curate-in-charge
Elizabeth Anne Jones No. 400	Pencoedcae Farm	Aug 12 <sup>th</sup> 1918	19 yrs	W. Rees. D. Felix R. P. Aberbeeg.

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NAME.	ABODE.	When Buried.	Age.	By whom the Ceremony was Performed.
Mary Lewis No. 401	Penyfan Cottage	Sept 10 <sup>th</sup> 1918	67 yrs	W. Rees & D. Felix R. P. Aberbeeg.
Edgar Lucas No. 402	8 Beech Grove Oakdale	Oct 12 <sup>th</sup> 1918	16 years	W. Rees Curate-in-charge
David Morgan No. 403	Waterloo Cottages	Oct 23 <sup>rd</sup> 1918	1 mth	W. Rees. Curate-in-charge
Naomi Phillips No. 404	High St Asgood.	Oct 31 <sup>st</sup> 1918	64 yrs	W. Rees Curate-in-charge
Mary Williams No. 405	Croespenmaen	Nov 4 <sup>th</sup> 1918	72 yrs	W. Rees Curate-in-charge
John George Clargo No. 406	Gurhay	Nov 4 <sup>th</sup> 1918	4 mths	W. Rees. Curate-in-charge
Thomas Lewis No. 407	Tynant	Nov 5 <sup>th</sup> 1918	78 yrs	W. Rees. Curate-in-charge
Percy Edward Carter No. 408	Blackwood	Nov 14 <sup>th</sup> 1918	24 yrs	W. Rees. Curate-in-charge.