

Railway Workers War Memorial

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EX-RAILMEN MEET FOR PLAQUE CEREMONY

Railway workers at Oswestry who were employed with the old Cambrian Company met for the first time for many years for a ceremony in Cae Glas Park on Thursday, when the re-sited plaque commemorating the railway men who died in the first world war was unveiled.

Afterwards, the men, some of them very elderly and infirm, chatted together about the old days in the railway workshops, engine shed and station offices over a cup of tea and other light refreshments at the Wynnstay Hotel.

The plaque has been placed on a pillar designed by the chief technical officer of Oswestry Borough Council, Mr. John Phillips, and can be seen near the park gates.

It was unveiled by former Cambrian employee Councillor Billy Jones and dedicated by the Vicar of Oswestry, Preben-

dary Toby Boulton in the presence of the town mayor and mayoress, Councillor John and Mrs. Field; the borough mayor Mrs. Mona Edwards; borough mayoress Mrs. Kathleen Bates; members of the town council; officers of the borough council, Mr. Oliver Veitom, last superintendent in Oswestry of the Cambrian section of the Great Western Railway; and Mr. W. Meredith, Cardiff, Western Region architect's outdoor assistant, representing Railway Board architect, Mr. Ray Moncroft. A wreath was laid by Mr. Sonny Evans, of Llwyn Road a former Cambrian worker.

Councillor Jones said that as a former employee of the Cambrian Railway he was proud to have been asked by the town council to unveil the plaque.

It was originally fixed to the booking office

wall on the town platform at Oswestry and, when the station closed, was taken down and handed over to the old borough council and was kept in the Guildhall. "I was approached on several occasions by my old Cambrian colleagues asking if a permanent home could be found for the plaque and 12 months ago the town council agreed to place it in the park next to the town war memorial," said Mr. Jones.

Mr. Jones had a word for the former employees who were either housebound or in hospital and said he was very pleased to see Mr. Wickens, of Cambrian Drive, who was a former permanent way inspector and who, at 92, was believed to be the oldest surviving railwayman in Oswestry.

"In the Oswestry area there still remain six members who served in World War II. They

are Mr. Sonny Evans, Mr. Lew Dyke, Mr. Frank Thomas, Mr. J. Morris, Mr. J. Hughes and Mr. A. Jones. "Of the 53 names on the plaque, many relatives still live in Oswestry today," said Mr. Jones.

He mentioned the first name, W. W. Boak, who was the father of Mrs. Wilf Hughes, of Castle Street, and the last name, Mr. R. Williams, who was a brother of Mr. Alf Williams, of Whittington, who worked in the blacksmith's shop in the loco works.

Mr. Jones said the plaque would be a reminder to the future generations of the period when Oswestry was the headquarters of the Cambrian Company, employing in its heyday in the Oswestry district about 2,000 people.

"Oswestry in those days was a prosperous railway town," he said.

"This tablet is erected to perpetuate the memory of the men of the Cambrian Railways whose names are here recorded and who gave their lives for their king and country in the Great War 1914-1918."

The inscription commemorating the removal of the memorial reads as follows:

"This memorial removed from the closed Railway Station was erected on this site by Oswestry Town Council and unveiled by Cllr W G Jones on October 23rd 1975."

BOAK, W W
BOYLIN, W H
CAINE, E J
COLLINGS, W A
COOLE, E R
CUDWORTH, T
DAVIES, C A
DOWNS, S
DYAS, J H
ELLIS, E S
EVANS A B
EVANS, Edward
EVANS, E R
EVANS, H P
EVANS, Ralph
EVANS, R
EVANS, R T
EVANSON, W
FOULKES, T G
GALLIERS, C
HARRIES, E G
HUGHES, C H

JONES, D F
JONES, D R
JONES, F
JONES, S O
JONES, W
JUDGE, C C
LEWIS, W E
LEWIS, W H
LLOYD, J
LOOSE, G H
MASON, S
MILLS, T
NEWELL, R O
NICHOLAS, F R
OWEN, E H
OWEN, H H
OWEN, T E
PHILLIPS, F
PRICE, D J
ROBERTS, A
ROBERTS, H
ROGERS, J T

SMITH, A R
STOKES, H E
TOMAS, D
TUDOR, H
VAUGHAN, S
WAINWRIGHT, J W
WILLIAMS, G
WILLIAMS, M R