

Lance Corporal Brinley Howell Powell©
Regimental number: 159091
4th Section, 104th Field Company, Royal Engineers

born: 1889 - died: 28 May 1918

Lance Corporal Brinley Howell Powell was born in 1889 in Merthyr Tydfil, Glamorgan, Wales,¹ the son of William H. and Mary Jane (nee James) Powell.² Both his parents were also born in Merthyr Tydfil—William in about 1835 and Mary Jane about two years later. They also married in Merthyr Tydfil in 1880³ and had six children,⁴ all born in the same town. All but one was still living in 1911: Bronwen Eliza (born in 1880),⁵ Daniel James (born in 1882),⁶ Annetta Mary (born in 1886),⁷ Brinley and Janetta (born in 1893).⁸ The sixth child, who died before 1911, was probably Annetta (born early in 1885 and died within a few months).⁹

In 1891, the family lived at 27 Thomas Street in Merthyr Tydfil, where William was a printer compositor's foreman.¹⁰ William died sometime over the next decade because, in 1901, Mary Ann was a widow and the licensee victualler of the Tydvil Arms Inn at 27 Tramroadside North in Methyr Tydfil.¹¹ By 1911, Brinley was a journeyman carpenter and still living at home with his mother and three siblings on Tramroadside North.¹²

Brinley enlisted as a Sapper in the Royal Engineers¹³ in Merthyr, Glamorgan,¹⁴ in about April 1916.¹⁵ In May 1918, the 104th Field Company of the Royal Engineers was stationed in Les Brebis, north of Arras.¹⁶ It had arrived in Les Brebis from Houvelin at the beginning of the month. At the end of the month, Brinley was injured and admitted to No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station with a shrapnel wound to his lower jaw.¹⁷ He died at 7 p.m. that day and was buried the following day in Pernes Military Cemetery (Plot 2, Row D, Grave 14) with the Canadian chaplain J. K. Tibbits presiding. His unit was notified of his death on 31 May.

29/5/18	Went round line with Lt Porter met Cpls G1 at Belle HQ Reported to Cpl re M.G. work on Fosse 5, decided not to carry on
30/5/18	8:30 PM No 5 42260 Spkr Sharrocks killed - No 159091 Lt Cpl Powell B.H wounded head HE shell

31/5/18	Recd word from 1st Canadian C.C.S that Lt Cpl Powell died of wounds 7 PM 28/5/18.
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"UK, WWI War Diaries (France, Belgium and Germany), 1914-1920," Ancestry

His mother, who was then living at Brook House, The Walk, Merthyr Tydfil, was notified of his death. She asked to have the following engraved on his headstone:

NIGHT WILL PASS
AND JOY AND HOPE AWAKEN
AND THE DAWN SHALL RISE¹⁸

In May 1918, nearly 4,000 soldiers were admitted to No. 1 CCCS.¹⁹ There were 115 deaths that month—more than in any of the other three and a half months that No. 1 CCCS was in Pernes. The Pernes British Military Cemetery was only set up in April 1918 when No. 1 and No. 4 CCCS came to Pernes, driven back by the German advance.²⁰

His mother and a friend, Miss Diana McNamara, were jointly awarded the monies owing to him from the army upon his death. No information was found to identify this friend.

Brinley was awarded posthumously the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918) and the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre).²¹

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¹ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 20 July 2017) entry for Powell, Brinley Howell, Registration district: Merthyr Tydfil, Volume 11A, Page 508

² "1891 Wales Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 20 July 2017), entry for Brinley Powell, Registration district: Merthyr Tydfil, Sub-registration district: Lower Merthyr Tydfil, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 32, Piece: 4437, Folio: 92, Page Number: 17

³ "England & Wales Marriages 1837–2005," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 20 July 2017), entry for William Powell, District: Merthyr Tydfil, County: Glamorganshire, Volume: 11A Page: 519

⁴ "1911 Wales Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 5 January 2017), entry for Brinley Howell Powell, Registration district: Merthyr Tydfil, Registration district number: 590, Sub-registration district: Lower Merthyr Tydfil, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 02, Household schedule number: 255, Piece: 32426

⁵ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 20 July 2017) entry for Powell, Brouwen [*sic*] Elizabeth, Registration district: Merthyr Tydfil, Volume 11A, Page 430

⁶ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 20 July 2017) entry for Powell, Daniel James, Registration district: Merthyr Tydfil, Volume 11A, Page 454

⁷ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 20 July 2017) entry for Powell, Annetta Mary, Registration district: Merthyr Tydfil, Volume 11A, Page 531

⁸ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 20 July 2017) entry for Powell, Janetta, Registration district: Merthyr Tydfil, Volume 11A, Page 565

⁹ "England & Wales births 1837–2006," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 16 November 2017), entry for Annetta Powell, District: Merthyr Tydfil, County: Glamorganshire, Volume: 11A, Page: 552A;

"England & Wales Deaths 1837–2007," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 16 November 2017), entry for Annetta Powell, District: Merthyr Tydfil, County: Glamorganshire, Volume: 11A, Page: 375

¹⁰ "1891 Wales Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 20 July 2017), entry for Brinley Powell

¹¹ "1901 Wales Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 20 July 2017), entry for Brinley Powell, Registration district: Merthyr Tydfil, Sub-registration district: Lower Merthyr Tydfil, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 23, Household schedule number: 94, Piece: 5025, Folio: 111, Page: 18

¹² "1911 Wales Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 5 January 2017), entry for Brinley Howell Powell

¹³ "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 17 September 2017), entry for Brinley H. Powell

¹⁴ "UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914–1919," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 20 July 2017), entry for Brinley Howell Powell

¹⁵ Based on "War Gratuity Calculator" (<https://wargratitude.wordpress.com/2015/08/16/gratuity-calculator/>: accessed 18 May 2017) ; "UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901–1929," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 20 July 2017), entry for Brinley Howell Powell

¹⁶ "UK, WWI War Diaries (France, Belgium and Germany), 1914–1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 17 September 2017), Regiment or unit: Royal Engineers, Sub-unit: 103 Field Company, 104 Field Company, 129 Field Company, Division: 24th Division, Diary entry start date: 104th F.C.R.E. Vol 5 Jan, Diary dates: 1915 Aug - 1919 Jun, 1915 Aug - 1919 May, 1915 Aug - 1919 Jun, Diary entry location: 104th F.C.R.E. Vol 5 Jan, Piece description: Piece 2199: Divisional Troops (1915 - 1919), Piece number: 2199

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- ¹⁷ "No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station," *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* (www.bifhsgo.ca: accessed 17 September 2017), entry for Powell, B. H.
- ¹⁸ *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (www.cwgc.org: accessed 17 September 2017), entry for Powell, Brinley Howell, Service No: 159091
- ¹⁹ "War Diaries of the First World War: 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station 1914/08/13-1919/03/31," *Library and Archives Canada* (http://data4.collectionscanada.gc.ca/netacgi/nph-brs?s1=casualty+clearing&s13=&s12=&l=20&s9=RG9&s7=9-52&Sect1=IMAGE&Sect2=THESOFF&Sect4=AND&Sect5=WARDPEN&Sect6=HITOFF&d=FIN&p=1&u=http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/archivianet/02015202_e.html&r=1&f=G: accessed 15 December 2014)
- ²⁰ "Pernes British Military Cemetery," *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (<http://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/11600/PERNES%20BRITISH%20CEMETERY>: accessed 13 January 2015)
- ²¹ "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914-1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 17 September 2017), entry for Brinley H. Powell