George Percy Coward

George Percy Coward was born in North Bradley in 1896, the son of William and Mary Jane Coward (nee Webb). His father was a native of Trowbridge and his mother was born in Yarnbrook. William and Mary Jane had married in 1893.

The 1901 for the Rank, North Bradley records:-
William Cowrd, Head, 31, Clothworker born in Trowbridge; Mary J., Wife, 30, Glover;   Lily, Daughter, 7; Edith, Daughter, 6; George, Son, 5; May, Daughter, 3; Arthur, Son, an infant. Mother and all children were born in North Bradley.

At some point after the birth of another in 1909 the family moved to the coal mining village of British, Talywain, Monmouthshire.

The 1911 census at Kings Parade, British, Talywain, Abersycham, Monmouthsire records:-
William, Head, 41, Boiler Stoker;   Mary Jane, Wife, 40; Edith, Daughter, 16; George, Son, 15, Coal Miner/Hewer; Arthur, Son, 10; Hubert, Son, 5; Edith [think this should be Hilda Emily], Daughter; 2; Wilfred, Son, Infant under 1.   All are recorded as being born in Westbury apart from Wilfred who was born in Abersychan, Monmouthshire.

George Percy Coward served as Lance Corporal 11224 in the 2nd Battalion South Wales Borderes having enlisted at Ponypool, Monmouthsire.

The 2nd Battalion of the South Wales Borderers had been in Gallipoli from the first landings in April 1915, although George is thought to have arrived there in August 1915. The final British offensive of the campaign started in August 1915, including an unsuccessful attack on Scimitar Hill which began on 21st August. The 2nd Battalion took part in this attack, so it is likely to have been here that George was lost.

George is recorded as having been killed in action at Gallipoli on the 20th September 1915 aged just 19.

He has no know grave and is commemorated on the Helles Memorial, his name is recorded on Panel 80 to 84 or 219 and 220. He is also commemorated on Pontypool and Abersychan Memorial Gates, Hanbury, Road Pontypool. He is also named on the Nodffa Baptist Church Memorial Plaque and Roll of Honour, High Street, Abersychan.