**Cecil Reay Pughe**

Cecil Reay Pughe, born in Bangor in 1886, was the youngest son of

James William and Louisa Pughe. His father was a brewer’s agent and the family of three boys and three girls grew up in Wales.

All three boys worked as railway clerks and during the 1900s the family moved to Hertfordshire. They set up a family home at

‘Silver stone’, 39 Capel Road, Oxhey, a house on a development known originally as New Bushey. It was built on land owned by the London and North Western Railway Company and many of the terraced cottages were occupied by railway workers. Thomas and Kenneth Pughe found employment with the London and North Western Railway Company and Cecil with the South East and Chatham Railway.

By 1911 their eldest sister, Hannah, had left home, Louisa was employed a governess to a private family and Natalie was a bookkeeper for a confectionery firm. At that time there were eight adults occupying the house in Capel Road, including a sister-in-law.

When war broke out Cecil enlisted in Watford, initially with the Northamptonshire and later with the Bedfordshire Regiment as Private 40900. He served in France and Flanders and was killed in action on 27 August 1918, aged 31. He was buried at A.I.F, Burial Ground at Flers near the Somme and he is commemorated on the memorial at St Matthew’s Church, Oxhey.

His older brother, Thomas Ripley Pughe, who joined the Royal Garrison Artillery, survived the war.

