

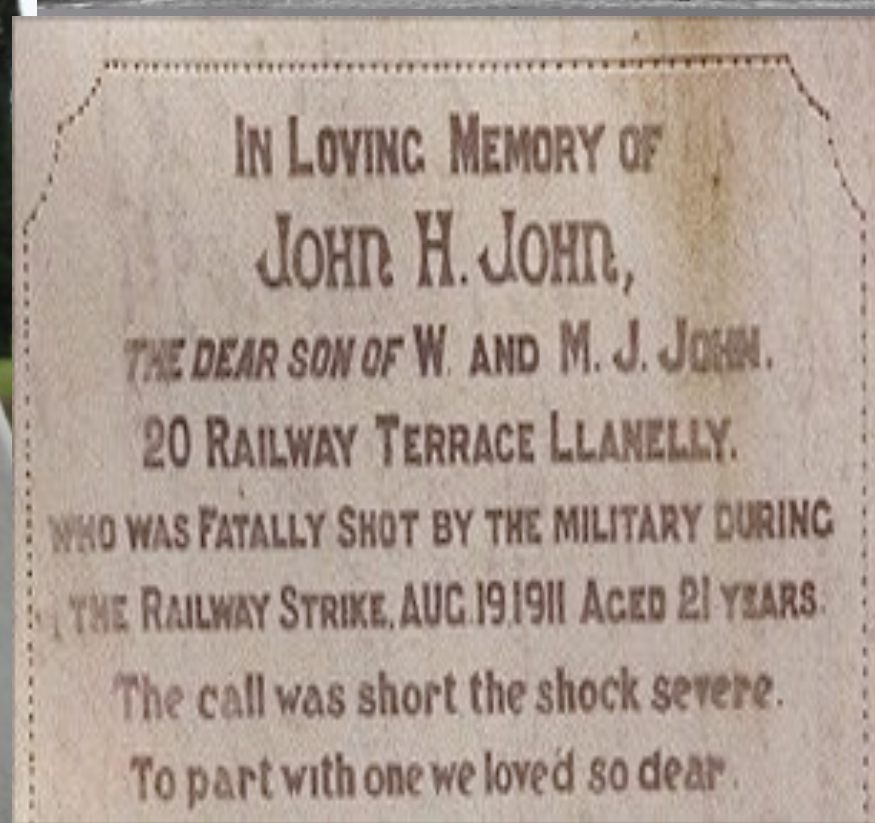
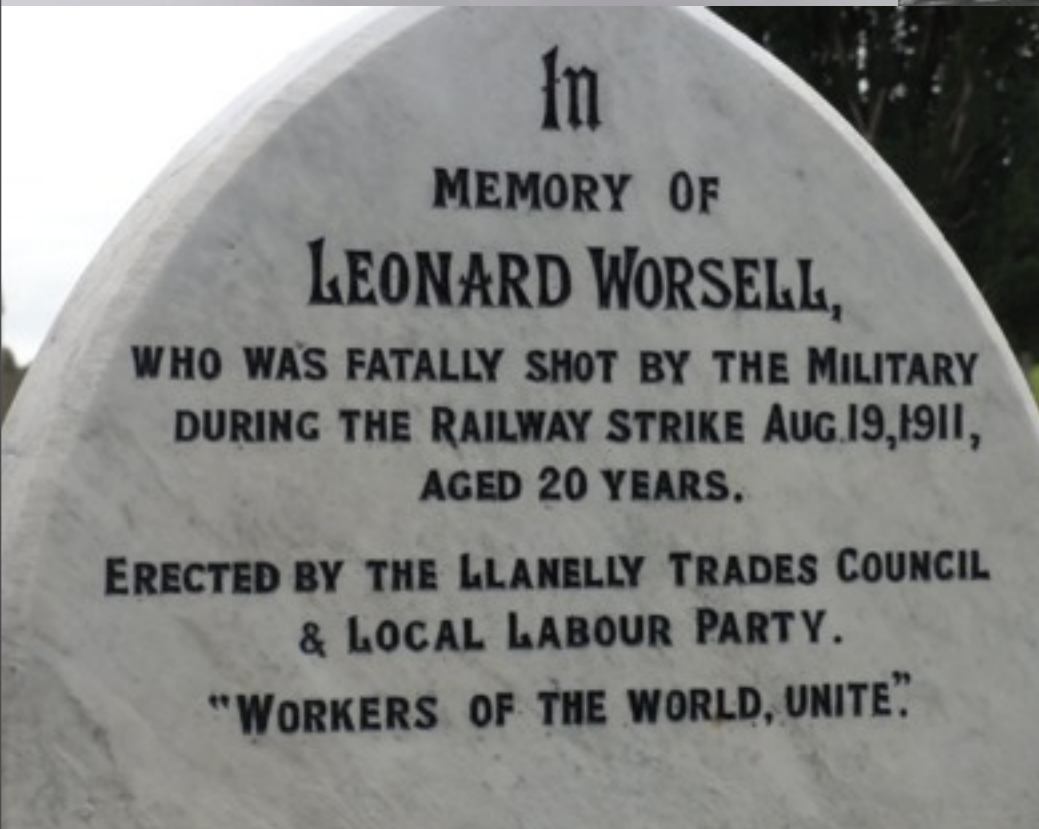


ALL ABOUT LLANELLI RIOTS

By Courtney,
Cheyenne and

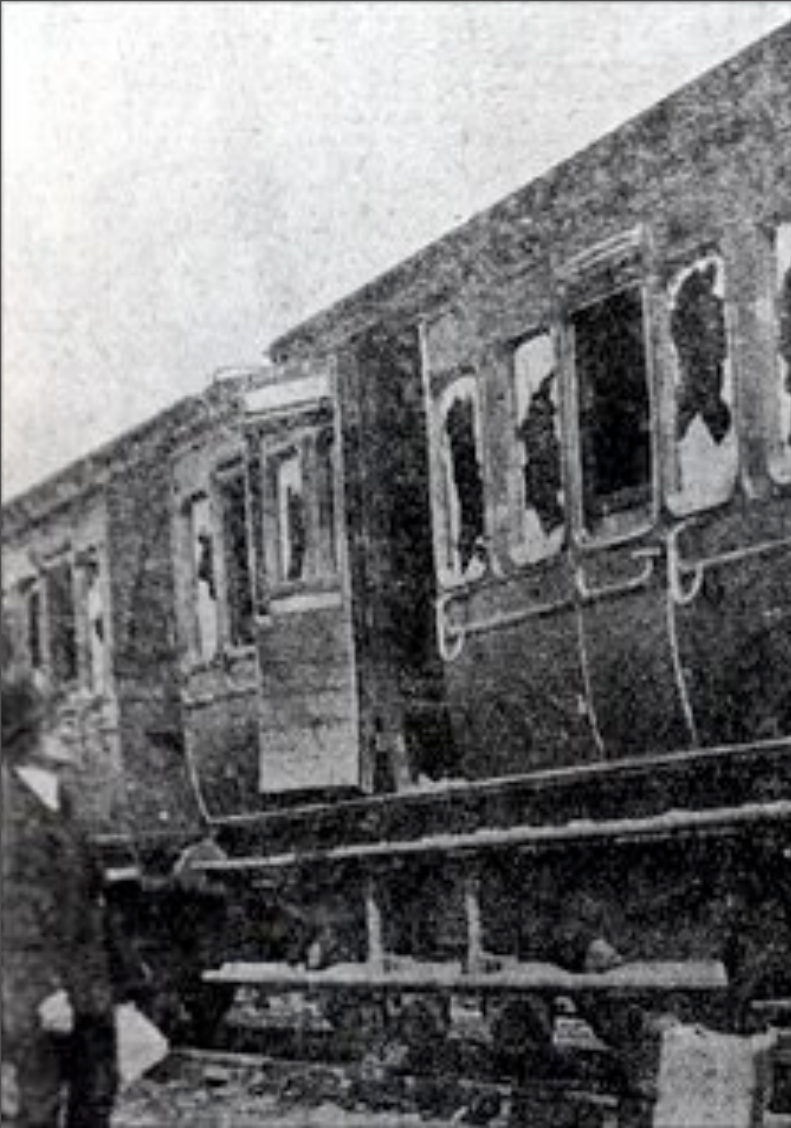


Some Pictures



Llanelli Riots

SOME
TRAINS
LOOKED
LIKE THIS



Leonard
Worsell and
John Jac Jones
were killed

- ▣ A shout rings out. The group of young men gathered by the garden wall stubbornly stand their ground “popeth yn iawn!” “It’s all right” shouts one “blanc ywin hi bois it’s blank boys.”



Causes of the Riots

- ▣ The Llanelli Railway Riots of 1911 showed a breathtaking display of working class solidarity, in the space of a few days six workers would be dead, two shot by soldiers, hundreds wounded and one young soldier would mutiny after refusing the order to fire at innocent bystanders.
- ▣ One of the causes of the 1911 Great Unrest was the fall in real wages – wages had remained static since 1900 while the cost of living had gone up by 12.5%. When asked how much they earned, a worker's typical reply was "a damn sight more than I'm paid".
- ▣ The rail strike began on Thursday 17 th August. When talks between the government and union leaders broke down that evening ,workers began to walk out on mass startling the employers, the media, MPs and union leaders alike. Workers in other industries started to come out in solidarity.
- ▣ Over the next couple of days the strike became more solid. Winston Churchill, the then Liberal Home Secretary, in despair wrote: "The men have beaten us... There is nothing we can do. We are done!"



- ▣ For the next two days the strikers did not allow trains to pass through the town, picketing and even blocking the tracks with their own bodies. The strikers were watched over by the armed forces, who had been sent to Llanelli and other towns affected by the strike to restore order and were a common sight in the industrial areas of South West Wales at that time. Despite the Riot Act having been read to the assembled crowds, when one train did manage to get through on Saturday 19th August, the strikers chased after it. In an ill-thought-out attempt to take control of the situation, the troops were ordered to shoot into the unarmed crowd by their commanding officer.

At first, believing the troops to be firing blank rounds as a scare tactic, the crowds were not unduly worried and continued to stand their ground. However, when the bullets began to find their targets and men fell, bleeding heavily, the crowd panicked and tried to flee.