(Cofeb Thiepval, Ffrainc)

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Ethel Elizabeth Poole

I hyrwyddo casglu enwau ar Ddeiseb Heddwch 1923-24 penododd Undeb Cynghrair y Cenhedloedd Cymru ddau drefnydd: Mrs Hugh (Mary Ellen) Pritchard yn y gogledd a Cheredigion ac Ethel Elizabeth Poole i wasanaethu'r de a sir Fynwy. Talwyd honorariwm o £100 yr un iddynt. Erbyn mis Medi 1923 roedd Ethel yn cynnull cyfarfodydd cyhoeddus yn Abertawe, Caerdydd, Maesteg, Pontlottyn, Llanelli ac yn y blaen.

Ynddynt byddai'n egluro natur y ddeiseb ac yn sefydlu Pwyllgorau Llywio lleol o fenywod dylanwadol i arwain y gwaith. Dwedai fod croeso i bob menyw dros 18 oed yng Nghymru arwyddo ond dylid darllen geiriad yr apêl i bob menyw cyn gofyn am ei llofnod.

Wrth ddathlu llwyddiant taith America ym mis Mehefin 1924, honnodd Emily Matthews i'r mudiad fod *yn ffodus iawn i sicrhau gwasanaeth egnïol y ddau drefnydd hyn, a ymgymerodd â'r gwaith, nid fel gwaith trefnu, ond fel cenhadaeth. Nhw oedd calon ac enaid y mudiad*, meddai.

Ganed Ethel yn Horfield, Bryste, ar 1 Hydref 1883 yn ferch i John George ac Annie Tyson. Cofnoda Cyfrifiad 1891 ei fod e'n filwr proffesiynol yn gwasanaethu ledled y byd ac roedd ei brodyr a'i chwiorydd hŷn wedi eu geni ym Malta, y Dwyrain Pell a Singapore. Erbyn 1901 roedd y tad wedi ymddeol a'r teulu'n byw yn Queen's Hill, **Casnewydd**. Gwelwn fod Ethel yn ddisgybl athrawes mewn ysgol fwrdd ac ar 30 Gorffennaf 1904 priododd yr ysgolfeistr Perceval Poole yn Eglwys Sant Marc, gan fynd i fyw i Gilgant Sant Marc yn y dref. Erbyn 1911 roedd ganddynt ddau fab: Percy a Harry. Bu farw Ethel ar 29 Rhagfyr 1946 yn Ilford Essex.

Yn arwyddocaol iawn hefyd roedd gan Ethel frawd iau o'r enw Percy Eldin Tyson, a laddwyd ar 8 Rhagfyr 1916 ar faes y gad yn Ffrainc. Roedd yn 26 mlwydd oed ac yn gwasanaethu gyda'r Gatrawd Gymreig. Mae wedi ei gofáu yn **Thiepval** er nad yw ei fedd wedi ei nodi eto.

O gofio'r trasiedi personol hwn hawdd deall ymroddiad Ethel dros heddwch parhaol ar ôl cyflafan y Rhyfel Mawr.

Gan Catrin Stevens

(Thiepval Memorial, France)

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To promote the collection of names on the Peace Petition 1923-24 the Welsh League of Nations Union of Wales appointed two organisers: Mrs Hugh (Mary Ellen) Pritchard in the North and Ceredigion and Ethel Elizabeth Poole to serve the South and Monmouthshire. They were paid an honorarium of £100 each.

By September 1923 Ethel was convening public meetings in Swansea, Cardiff, Maesteg, Pontlottyn, Llanelli and so on. She would explain the nature of the petition, and establish local Steering Committees of influential women to lead the work. She said that *"all women over the age of 18 in Wales are welcome to sign, but the wording of the appeal should be read to all women before asking for their signature."*

In celebrating the success of the American trip in June 1924, prominent campaigner Emily Matthews of Anglesey claimed that the WLNU organization was *"very fortunate to secure the energetic service of these two organizers, who undertook the work not as 'organizing work', but as a mission. They were the heart and soul of the movement,"* she said.

Ethel was born in Horfield, Bristol, on 1 October 1883, the daughter of John George and Annie Tyson. The 1891 Census records that John was a professional soldier serving all over the world, with his older brothers and sisters born in Malta, the Far East and Singapore. By 1901 the father had retired and the family lived in Queen's Hill, **Newport**. We see that Ethel was a pupil teacher at a boarding school, and on 30 July 1904 she married the schoolmaster Perceval Poole at St Mark's Church, going to live at St Mark's Crescent in the town. By 1911 they had two sons: Percy and Harry. Ethel died on 29 December 1946 in Ilford Essex.

Very significantly Ethel also had a younger brother called Percy Eldin Tyson, who was killed on 8 December 1916 on the battlefield in France. He was 26 years old and serving with the Welsh Regiment. He is commemorated on the **Thiepval Memorial (above)**, although his grave has never been identified.

Remembering this personal tragedy it is easy to understand Ethel's dedication for lasting peace after the massacre of the Great War.

By Catrin Stevens