

# Henry Thomas Barnwell

## Tŷr Ysgol/The School House (1920 - )

Page 153

Baptism Solemnized in the Parish of *Llangernyw* in the County of *Denbigh*  
in the Year One Thousand *and Ninety Two*

When Baptized.	Child's Christian Name.	Christian.	Abode.	Quality, Trade, or Profession.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
<i>1859</i> <i>March</i> <i>16th</i>	<i>Henry</i> <i>Son of</i>	<i>William</i> <i>Laur</i>	<i>Barnwell</i>	<i>Schoolhouse Schoolmaster</i>	<i>E. Lloyd Jones</i> <i>Vicar</i>

**G**anwyd Henry Thomas Barnwell, neu 'Harri' fel y gelwir ef, yn 1920, yn fab cyntaf i William ac Elizabeth

Barnwell. Roedd ei dad yn brifathro Ysgol Llangernyw, ac ef oedd y drydedd genhedlaeth o deulu Barnwell i ddysgu yn yr ysgol. Symudodd y teulu yn 1933, gan fod Mr Barnwell wedi derbyn swydd newydd fel Prifathro Ysgol Fechgyn St Oswald, Ashbourne, Swydd Derby. Parhaodd Henry gyda'i addysg yn Ysgol Ramadeg Brenhines Elisabeth yn Ashbourne.

Erbyn 1938, enillodd ysgoloriaeth i astudio Ffrangeg ym Mhrifysgol Birmingham. Fel rhan o'r cwrs, symudodd i Brifysgol Grenoble, Ffrainc ym Mis Mawrth 1940. Yr oedd yn gyfnod cythryblus yn Ewrop a bu i Henry osgoi cael ei ddal wrth i Hitler ymosod ac ildiodd Ffrainc yn ystod mis Mehefin 1940. Dychwelodd i Brydain er rhyddhad mawr i lawer, ac ym mis Awst, pan oedd yn ugain mlwydd oed, ymunodd â'r Corfflu Signalau Brenhinol.

Cafodd ei anfon i'r Dwyrain Canol gan gymryd rhan ym mrwydrau pennaf y diffeithdir, gan gynnwys brwydr Alum Halfa ac El Alamein. Ym mis Rhagfyr 1942, cafodd ei adran ei hencilio a'i hanfon i Syria a Libanus drwy gydol 1943. Yn 1944, lladdwyd Douglas, sef unig frawd Henry, ar faes y gad yn Anzio, yn ystod y frwydr dros Monte Cassino, Yr Eidal.

Wedi cyfnodau yn Yr Eidal, Groeg ac Awstria, rhyddhawyd Henry o'r fyddin ym Mehefin 1946, a dychwelodd i Brifysgol Birmingham i gwblhau ei astudiaethau. Enillodd radd BA gydag Anrhydedd Dosbarth Cyntaf yn 1947. O ganlyniad cafodd ei benodi yn ddarllenwr ym Mhrifysgol Montpellier, Ffrainc.

Dros y blynyddoedd wedyn, priododd â Jane a ganwyd iddynt ddau o blant Katherine a Paul. Fel ieithydd dawnus, yn ystod y cyfnod hwn, cwblhaodd draethawd ymchwil ar waith cynnar y dramodydd Jean Racune (1639-1699), gan ennill M.A. Yn dilyn hyn, enillodd Ddoethuriaeth Montpellier (gyda rhagoriaeth) wedi iddo ysgrifennu traethawd ymchwil ar yr athronydd a'r beirniad Sant Evermond (1616-17). Cyfunodd hyn gyda swydd fel darlithydd mewn Ffrangeg ym Mhrifysgol Sheffield ac yna ym Mhrifysgol Caeredin.

Yn 1965, penodwyd ef yn Athro mewn Ffrangeg ac Ieitheg ym Mhrifysgol Queens, Belfast ac yn 1971, yn Athro Iaith a Llenyddiaeth Ffrengig ym Mhrifysgol Glasgow. Ar ei ymddeoliad yn 1980, cafodd ei benodi yn Athro Emeritws.

Yn dilyn ei ymddeoliad, sefydlodd y Gymdeithas Astudiaethau Ffrengig yr 17eg Ganrif, ac ef oedd y Llywydd Anrhydeddus am Oes. Yn 1985, gwnaed ef yn gymrawd o'r Sefydliad Ymchwil Blaengar yn y Dyniaethau, ym Mhrifysgol Birmingham ac yr un pryd yn Athro Anrhydeddus mewn Ffrangeg.

Mae wedi ysgrifennu, golygu neu gyfieithu oddeutu deuddeg llyfr ac wedi ysgrifennu llawer o erthyglau ysgolheigaidd mewn cyfnodolion academiaidd, oll ar Lenyddiaeth Ffrengig yr 17eg Ganrif. Mae ei gyfraniad wedi bod mor arwyddocaol fel y cafodd ei anrhydeddu gan Lywodraeth Ffrainc a'i wneud yn 'Officier dans l'ordre des Palmes Academiques' am ei wasanaeth i ddiwylliant Ffrengig. Bellach, yn 91 oed, mae Henry yn ceisio cwblhau llyfr ar lythyrau Madame de Sévigné (1626-1696).

**H**enry Thomas Barnwell, or 'Harry' as he is known, was born in 1920, the eldest son of William and Elizabeth Barnwell. His father was the headmaster of Llangernyw School, and was the third generation of the Barnwell family to teach at the school. In 1933, Mr Barnwell was offered a new post as headmaster of St Oswald's Boys School, Ashbourne in Derbyshire, and Henry continued his education at Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School in Ashbourne.

In 1938, Henry gained a scholarship to study French at Birmingham University. As part of the course he moved to the University Of Grenoble, France in March 1940. These were tumultuous times in Europe and he narrowly escaped capture when Hitler invaded and France capitulated on June 17th of that year. He eventually managed to make his way back to Britain—much to everyone's relief. In August in the same year, at the age of twenty, he joined the Royal Corps of Signals.

He was posted to the Middle East and what followed was an extraordinary first-hand experience of all the major desert battles of the year, including Alum Halfa and El Alamein. In December 1942, his division was withdrawn and sent to Syria and Lebanon for the whole of 1943. In January 1944, tragedy struck when his only brother, Douglas, was killed in action at Anzio in the battle for Monte Cassino in Italy.

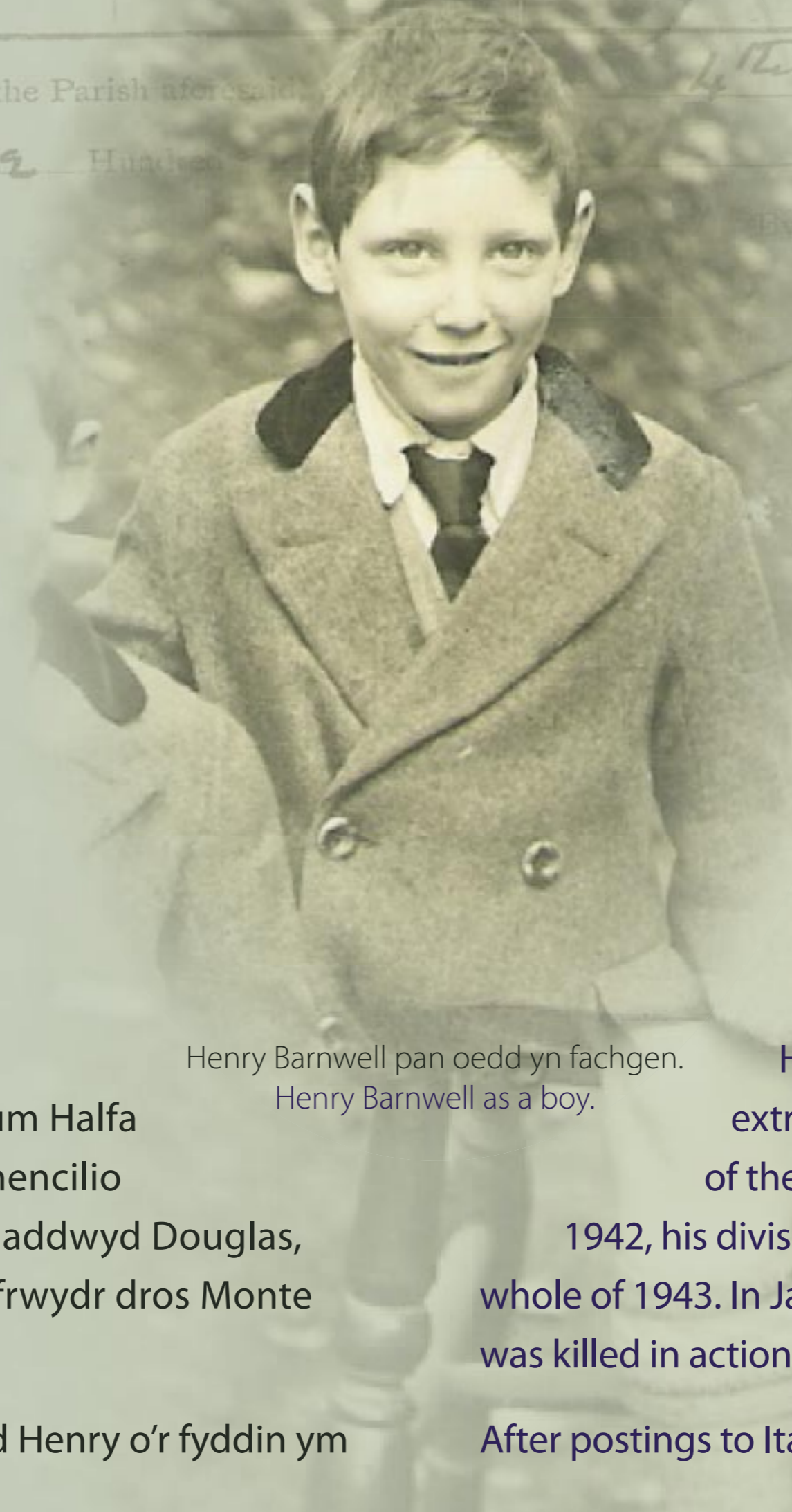
After postings to Italy, Greece and Austria, Henry was finally demobilised in June 1946 and he returned to Birmingham University to complete the final year of his BA degree, which he passed with First Class Honours in 1947. As a result of this he was appointed as a reader at the University of Montpellier, France.

Over the next few years he married Jane and had two children, Katherine and Paul. A gifted linguist, during this time, he completed a thesis on the early work of the dramatist Jean Racune (1639-1699) for which he was awarded an MA. This was followed by another thesis, in 1953 on Saint Evermond, Philosopher and critic (1616-17) for which he was awarded the Montpellier Doctorate (with distinction). He combined this with the 'day job' of lecturer in French, first at Sheffield and subsequently at Edinburgh Universities.

In 1965 he was appointed Professor of French and Philology at Queens' University, Belfast and in 1971 Marshall Professor of French Language and Literature at Glasgow University. Upon his retirement in 1980 he was appointed Professor Emeritus.

Following his retirement, he founded the Society for 17th Century French Studies of which he is an Honorary Life President. In 1985, he was made a fellow of the Institute of Advanced Research in the Humanities, Birmingham University and at the same time honorary Professor of French.

He is the author, editor or translator of twelve books and a major contributor of scholarly articles in academic journals, all on 17th Century French Literature. His contribution has been so significant that he was decorated by the French Government and made 'Officier dans l'ordre des Palmes Academiques' for services to French culture. Now, in his 91st year, he is aiming to complete a book on the letters of Madame de Sévigné (1626-1696).



Henry Barnwell pan oedd yn fachgen.  
Henry Barnwell as a boy.



Tŷr Ysgol a'r Ysgol ar ddechrau'r 20fed ganrif.  
The School House and the School in the early 20th century.