Amongst the many Newport women who served in different roles during the Great War, none did so with more distinction than Annie Mistrick (nee Brewer).

Annie was born in Newport in 1874. Her father worked at the nail works on Dos Row, off Barrack Hill. In 1899, at the age of 24, she qualified as a nurse of 'insane persons' and over the next few years worked at a number of hospitals around Britain, including Chester and London. Her later employment as a lady's personal nurse and companion provided the opportunity to travel around Europe.

When the Great War broke out in 1914, she was in Paris and quickly joined a French hospital and ambulance organisation. She served in France throughout the war, in war zones including the Marne, the Somme and Verdun and was often very close to the front line. On one occasion the ambulance in which she was travelling came under shellfire and she was wounded in the head and leg. She also came under shellfire while working in a French hospital. The strain caused by her work also led a period of serious illness, but she insisted on returning to duty once she recovered.

When the war ended in 1918 she continued to serve, working at a feeding station in Germany with the French army of occupation. There she met and married a French ambulance driver, Daniel Mistrick.

Early in 1921, her mother fell seriously ill and Annie returned to nurse her at the family home at 23 West Street Newport. Annie was, however, already seriously ill herself with Bright's disease, a disease of the kidneys, and on 30 January 1921, she died, aged just 46. She was buried in St Woolos Cemetery.

Her bravery and resilience were recognised by the French government and she was awarded a number of decorations, including two awards of the Croix de Guerre and the Legion d'Honnour. This makes her one of the most highly decorated nurses of any country in the Great War.

Annie was a remarkable woman but, in spite of receiving the British War and Victory Medals, she was not given a war grave and has not been recognised by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. Thanks, however, to the work of her relatives, particularly her great-nephew Ian Brewer, her work has now become widely recognised and admired by the people of Newport.

Dalen Annie Brewer.

Ymysg llawer o ferchaid Casnewydd a wasanaethodd yn y Rhyfel Mawr, yr oreu oedd Annie Mistrick [Brewer cyn priodi]

Ganwyd Annie yng Nghasnewydd yn 1874. 'Roedd ei thad yn weithiwr yng ngwaith hoelion Dos Row ger Barrack Hill.
Pan odd yn 24 oed graddiodd fel nyrs gwallgofion a bu'n gweithio men sawl ysbyty ledled Prydain, yn cynnwys Caer a Llundain cyn bod yn nyrs bersonol i ddynes fonheddig. Oherwydd hyn, cafodd deithio o gwmpas Ewrop.

Yr oedd ym Mharis pan ddechreuodd y Rhyfel Mawr ac ymunodd ac Ysbyty Ffrengig a hefyd drefniant ambiwlans. Bu'n gweithio yn Ffrainc drwy gydol y rhyfel mewn lleoedd fel Marne , y Somme a Verdun ac yn aml 'roedd yn agos i'r blaen milwrol. Un tro, anafwyd hi yn ei phen a'i choes pan oedd yn teithio mewn ambiwlans. Daeth hefyd o dan belen ffrwydrol pan yn gweithio mewn ysbyty Ffrengig.

Creodd galedi'r gwaith gyfnod o waeledd difrifol ond mynnodd ddychwelyd i'w gwaith pan yn well. Wedi diwedd y rhyfel yn 1918 bu'n gweithio gyda'r fyddin Ffrengig mewn gorsaf fwydo yn yr Almaen. Yno, cyfarfodd a phriododd yrrwr ambiwlans Ffrengig o'r new Daniel Mistrick.

Yn gynnar yn 1921 'roedd ei mam yn wael iawn a dychwelodd i'r cartref teuluol yn 23 West

Street i'w nyrsio. Ond 'roedd Annie ei hun yn wael iawn gyda chlefyd Bright [clwy'r aren] a bu farw ar y 30ain o Ionawr 1921 yn 46 oed. Claddwyd hi ym mynwent Sant Gwynllyw.

Oherwydd ei dewrder, rhoddodd llywodraeth Ffrainc nifer o wobrwyon iddi—yn cynnwys y Croix de Guerre a hefyd y Legion d'Honneur. Golyga hyn ei bod yn un o'r nyrsus mwyaf addurnedig yn y Rhyfel Mawr. 'Roedd Annie yn ferch hynod ond er derbyn tlysau Rhyfel a Buddugoliaeth Prydeinig, ni chafodd fedd rhyfel ac ni chydnabyddwyd hi gan Gomisiwn Beddau Rhyfel y Gymanwlad. Er hynny, diolch i waith ei theulu, yn enwedig i Ian Brewer [ei nai-fawr]mae ei gwaith wedi ei gydnabod a'i edmygu gan bobl Casnewydd.

NEWPORT REMEMBERS 1918 2018 JOURNEY'S END

CASNEWYDD COFIO 1918 2018 TAITH DIWEDD

cronfa dreftadaeth y loteri
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THE WESTERN FRONT ASSOCIATION 1914-1918 REMEMBERING

ANNIE BREWER

1874 - 1921