Thomas Arthur March was not a Llandudno Lad. He is not remembered on the Llandudno War Memorial or in Holy Trinity Church though he could have been.

Thomas March was born in Northamptonshire in 1870. He was the son of Thomas March, a chemist and his wife Fanny. Thomas became a commercial traveller. In August 1893, he married Florence Jackson and the couple had a child: Charles Ringrose March born in November 1894. Ten years later, the couple divorced – Florence citing her husband’s adultery and cruelty. After the divorce, Florence married Harry Coales and Thomas emigrated to Canada, settling at Simcoe, Ontario, becoming a farmer.

In 1910, Thomas March (senior) died leaving his wife over £10000. By the following year, Thomas’ mother and his sister, Nellie Abbott, were living at “Roumania”, Carmen Sylva Road, Craig-y-Don, Llandudno.

Thomas March volunteered to enlist into the Canadian Expeditionary Force in December 1915. He was a year older than he claimed and overage. He named his mother as his next of kin. His service number was 796531 and he joined the 133rd Battalion. In May 1916, he was promoted to corporal. The battalion disembarked in England on 11 November. Appointed as acting sergeant, he was transferred to the Canadian Railway Troops at Purfleet in February 1917, reverting to his substantive rank of sapper at his own request. Posted to the new 5th Battalion CRT, he disembarked in France later that month.

In May 1917, Thomas reported sick and was diagnosed with albuminuria. He was evacuated to England and was admitted to the 2nd Western General Hospital at Manchester. In August 1917, he was transferred to a convalescent hospital at Epsom. The following month, he was available for discharge and slated to spend leave at Craig-y-Don. In the event, he was discharged on 1 October 1917. Clearly the discharge was premature for on 8 October he was seriously ill in the Balmoral Auxiliary Hospital, Llandudno. He died on 17 October 1917, the cause of death being
pulmonary tuberculosis and exhaustion. The death was registered by his mother and he was buried at the Great Orme Cemetery.

When the Imperial War Graves Commission surveyed the cemetery after the war, it reported the grave's condition: “Grass edge, earth, little attention.” It was later marked with a standard headstone with a cross and Canadian Forces maple leaf. Mrs Fanny March still lived in Craig-y-Don in the early 1920s; she died in 1928 at Colwyn Bay.

Thomas Arthur March is not a forgotten Llandudno Lad. However, because his mother (his next of kin) and sister (the recipient of his will) had lived in Llandudno since 1910 and that he had died and was buried in the town, then his connection with the town could not be considered tenuous – there are names on the war memorials that are much more obscure. Thomas is remembered on the Carillon Tower in Simcoe, Ontario as Sgt Arthur T March.

The Balmoral YMCA was taken over by the Red Cross becoming the Balmoral Auxiliary Hospital. It was here that Thomas March died on 17 October 1917.