

Artist pays tribute to Great War soldiers

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A CARMARTHEN arts graduate has been commissioned to design a memorial in Belgium to commemorate Welsh soldiers who fought during the First World War.

Lee Odishow, who graduated in sculpture at Coleg Sir Gar's School of Creative Arts, will now work with his colleague Lyndon Mably, a Coleg Sir Gâr arts lecturer and fine art graduate of the school, who is project managing the memorial commission in his role as chair of Sculpture Cymru.

The 31-year-old was asked to take part in the project after the Arts Council of Wales approached Sculpture Cymru to assist the committee in finding a talented shortlist of sculptors to create scale models for the memorial, which will be located in the village of Langemark and will sit on four Welsh blue pennant stones.

Chair of Sculpture Cymru Lyndon said: "It was challenging to produce a shortlist of four sculptors from the many excellent practising sculptors we have in Wales.

"Lee's work was chosen because of its highly detailed, finely modeled work, epitomising the ferocity and pride of the Welsh people, with a fierce countenance and posture, which is what the committee were seeking."

The task ahead is to reproduce the model as an 8ft bronze dragon, working from Lee's 3D design.

The commissioning body felt it was important that casting and pouring the dragon should take place in Wales and Lyndon is delighted to announce that Castle Fine Art Foundry, Powys, will shortly begin the memorial's production.

Lee said he was proud to be part of the project.

"My grandfather John Cox was also posted to the Black Forest in Germany after WW2.

"My uncle Douglas Field who died this New Year's was in the Royal Engineers in the 60s and was Armed Forces boxing champion so, for many reasons, I'm really proud to be connected to this military commemoration project," Lee said.

The First Minister Carwyn Jones will unveil the memorial on August 16, in Belgium.