

## **Private Thomas Henry Evans**

**Regimental number: 34038**

**1<sup>st</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment**

**born: 1896 - died: 20 July 1918**

Private Thomas Henry Evans, born in 1896, was the son of Thomas and Alice Evans of Bosherton, Pembrokeshire in Wales.<sup>1</sup> He was baptised on 14 June 1896 in Bosherton.<sup>2</sup> Thomas' father, also called Thomas, was born in Monkton, Pembrokeshire in about 1859.<sup>3</sup> His mother, the former Alice Hall, was born in about 1869 in Lamphey, also in Pembrokeshire.<sup>4</sup> Thomas and Alice married in St Twynnels, Pembrokeshire on 6 July 1880. They had nine children, two of whom died in childhood: James William (born in 1882),<sup>5</sup> Frances Jane (born in 1884),<sup>6</sup> Alice Maude Mary (born in 1886<sup>7</sup> and died in 1894, at the age of 7),<sup>8</sup> Florence Annie (born in 1889),<sup>9</sup> Elizabeth Martha (later known as Eliza) (born in 1891),<sup>10</sup> Muriel Daisy (born in 1893),<sup>11</sup> Frank Arthur John (born in 1898<sup>12</sup> and died the same year)<sup>13</sup> and Caesar Stanley (born in 1900).<sup>14</sup>

In 1911, the family was living at Kent House in Bosherton. Thomas' father was a mason, as were Thomas and his older brother, James. Two of Thomas' sisters (Frances and Daisy) had been or were school teachers. Frances had married William Jenkins, a tailor, in 1910.<sup>15</sup>

Thomas enlisted in the Prince of Wales's Volunteers (South Lancashire) Regiment. He first served in the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion, but later joined the 1<sup>st</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Battalion.<sup>16</sup>

Thomas was admitted to the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Casualty Clearing Station on 20 July 1918 with gunshot wounds to his leg and thigh.<sup>17</sup> The tibia and fibula of his left leg were fractured. He died the same day, which may mean that he was already dead when he was admitted. His Battalion had encountered enemy artillery activity on 19 July and a short artillery barrage on the 20<sup>th</sup>.<sup>18</sup> Perhaps this was when Thomas was wounded.

Thomas, a member of the Church of England, was buried in the Pernes British Military Cemetery (Plot 5, Row F, Grave 13) on 21 July with the chaplain R. L. Brydges presiding. The entry in the chaplain's journal was made by Chaplain Brydges because, on the day that Thomas was admitted, the Chaplain and Honorary Captain Tibbits left the 1<sup>st</sup> CCCS on leave.<sup>19</sup> One of the chaplains notified his mother, who was still living at Kent House in Bosherton, of his death. The monies owing to him by the army after this death were sent to his father.<sup>20</sup>

The day Thomas was admitted to the 1<sup>st</sup> CCCS, there were 148 admissions.<sup>21</sup> He was one of 39 to die at that CCCS in July. Most of the over 1,000 First World War soldiers buried in the Pernes British Military Cemetery died at one of the nearby clearing stations.<sup>22</sup> This cemetery was only set up in April 1918 when the 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Canadian Casualty Clearing Stations came to Pernes, driven back by the German advance.

Thomas was awarded the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918) and the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre).<sup>23</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> "1911 Wales Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 4 June 2015), entry for Thomas Evans, Registration district: Pembroke, Registration District Number: 601, Sub-registration district: Pembroke, ED, institution, or vessel: 16, Household schedule number: 34, Piece: 33160

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- <sup>2</sup> "Pembroke Baptisms," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 5 January 2015), entry for Thomas Henry Evans, Record set: Pembroke Baptisms, Category: Birth, Marriage, Death & Parish Records, Subcategory: Births & baptisms
- <sup>3</sup> "1871 Wales Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 9 June 2015), entry for Thomas Evans, Registration district: Pembroke, Sub-registration district: Pembroke, ED, institution, or vessel: 15, Household schedule number: 33, Piece: 5518, Folio: 58, Page Number: 7
- <sup>4</sup> "1871 Wales Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 9 June 2015), entry for Alice Hall, Registration district: Pembroke, Sub-registration district: Pembroke, ED, institution, or vessel: 16, Household schedule number: 41, Piece: 5519, Folio: 9, Page Number: 11
- <sup>5</sup> "Pembroke Baptisms," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 9 June 2015), entry for James William Evans, Record set: Pembroke Baptisms, Category: Birth, Marriage, Death & Parish Records, Subcategory: Births & baptisms
- <sup>6</sup> "Pembroke Baptisms," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 9 June 2015), entry for Frances Jane Evans, Record set: Pembroke Baptisms, Category: Birth, Marriage, Death & Parish Records, Subcategory: Births & baptisms
- <sup>7</sup> "Pembroke Baptisms," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 9 June 2015), entry for Alice Maude Mary Evans, Record set: Pembroke Baptisms, Category: Birth, Marriage, Death & Parish Records, Subcategory: Births & baptisms
- <sup>8</sup> "England & Wales, FreeBMD Death Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 9 June 2015), entry for Alice Maude M. Evans, Registration district: Pembroke, Inferred County: Pembrokeshire, Volume: 11a, Page: 688
- <sup>9</sup> "Pembroke Baptisms," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 9 June 2015), entry for Florence Annie Evans, Record set: Pembroke Baptisms, Category: Birth, Marriage, Death & Parish Records, Subcategory: Births & baptisms
- <sup>10</sup> "Pembroke Baptisms," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 9 June 2015), entry for Elizabeth Martha Evans, Record set: Pembroke Baptisms, Category: Birth, Marriage, Death & Parish Records, Subcategory: Births & baptisms
- <sup>11</sup> "Pembroke Baptisms," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 9 June 2015), entry for Muriel Daisy liam Evans, Record set: Pembroke Baptisms, Category: Birth, Marriage, Death & Parish Records, Subcategory: Births & baptisms
- <sup>12</sup> "Pembroke Baptisms," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 9 June 2015), entry for Frank Arthur John Evans, Record set: Pembroke Baptisms, Category: Birth, Marriage, Death & Parish Records, Subcategory: Births & baptisms
- <sup>13</sup> "England & Wales, FreeBMD Death Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 9 June 2015), entry for Frank Arthur J. Evans, Registration district: Pembroke, Inferred County: Pembrokeshire, Volume: 11a, Page: 700
- <sup>14</sup> "England & Wales births 1837-2006," *Findmypast* ([www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk): accessed 17 December 2015), entry for Caesar Stanley Evans, District: Pembroke, County: Pembrokeshire, Volume: 11A, Page: 1175; "Pembroke Baptisms," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 9 June 2015), entry for Stanley Evans, Record set: Pembroke Baptisms, Category: Birth, Marriage, Death & Parish Records, Subcategory: Births & baptisms
- <sup>15</sup> "England & Wales marriages 1837-2008," *findmypast* ([www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk): accessed 9 June 2015), entry for Florence Annie Evans, District: Pembroke, County: Pembrokeshire, Volume: 11A, Page: 1737
- <sup>16</sup> "UK, WWI Service Medal and Award Rolls, 1914-1920," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 4 June 2015), entry for Thomas Evans
- <sup>17</sup> "Record of Deaths, 17 February 1916 - 10 February 1919, a record maintained at No. 1 CCCS," *Library and Archives Canada*, (records accessed 2013 & 2015), Record Group 9, series IIC10, volume 4556, Record number 632
- <sup>18</sup> "UK, WWI War Diaries (France, Belgium and Germany), 1914-1920," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 9 June 2015), Regiment or Unit: Prince of Wales's Volunteers (South Lancashire) Regiment, Sub Unit: 1/5th Battalion, Division: 55th Division, Diary Dates: 1916 Jan - 1919 Jul, Piece Description: Piece 2929/2: 1/5 Battalion South Lancashire Regiment (1916 Jan - 1919 Jul), Piece Number: 2929
- <sup>19</sup> "War Diaries of the First World War: 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station 1914/08/13-1919/03/31," *Library and Archives Canada* (<http://data4.collectionscanada.gc.ca/netacgi/nph-brs?s1=casualty+clearing&s13=&s12=&l=20&s9=RG9&s7=9->

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<sup>20</sup> "UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901-1929," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk); accessed 4 June 2015), entry for Thomas H. Evans

<sup>21</sup> "War Diaries of the First World War: 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station 1914/08/13-1919/03/31"

<sup>22</sup> "Pernes British Military Cemetery" *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (<http://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/11600/PERNES%20BRITISH%20CEMETERY>; accessed 13 January 2015)

<sup>23</sup> "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914-1920," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk); accessed 4 June 2015), entry for Thomas Evans