

Lance Serjeant Evan James Richards[©]

Regimental number: 13096

10th Battalion, Lancashire Fusiliers

born: 27 Sep 1889—died: 10 May 1916

Lance Serjeant Evan James Richards, the son of Evan and Matilda Richards,¹ was born on 27 September 1889² in Dilwyn, Herefordshire.³ Evan Sr. (born on 27 September 1864)⁴ and Matilda (nee Edwards) (born on 28 September 1866)⁵ had married just a few miles away in Knighton, Radnorshire—over the border from Herefordshire into Wales—in 1884.⁶ They had 10 children:

- Elizabeth Ann (born on 8 April 1885),⁷
- Mary (born on 3 August 1887),⁸
- Evan James,
- Edward (born on 13 September 1891),⁹
- Edith May (born on 27 November 1893),¹⁰
- Gladys Matilda (born on 13 August 1896),¹¹
- Jessie (born on 18 March 1899),¹²
- Kate (born on 27 January 1901),¹³
- Nellie (born on 12 October 1902)¹⁴ and
- William (born on 4 April 1905).¹⁵

Just after Evan's birth, the family was living at 10 Sculley Court in Dilwyn, where Evan's father was a farm labourer.¹⁶ On 25 February 1895, Evan Jr. was admitted to Pembridge Broxwood School.¹⁷ All his brothers and sisters also attended the same school.¹⁸

In 1901, the family had moved five miles away to Pembridge and were probably living at Weston Court Farm. Evan Sr. was a cowman on the farm and Evan Jr., at the age of 11, was a poultryman.¹⁹ Ten years later, the family was still at Weston,²⁰ but Evan Jr. had left home and was probably a domestic gardener, living at The Bothey, Cuerden Hall in Thelwall, near Warrington, Cheshire. He was living there with another gardener and the chauffeur.²¹ Four of his siblings—Mary, Edward, Edith and Gladys—had also left home and were in service: Mary as a cook at Marston in Pembridge,²² Edward as a cowman at The Yeld, Lyonshall, Herefordshire,²³ Edith as a servant in Henwood, Dilwyn,²⁴ and Gladys as a domestic servant in Sarnesfield, Weobley, Herefordshire.²⁵ The year after the whole family apparently left the district.²⁶

Four years later, soon after war was declared, Evan Jr. enlisted in the Lancashire Fusiliers. He enlisted in Warrington, Lancashire, in about January 1915²⁷ and served with the 10th Battalion.²⁸ This battalion was formed in September 1914 in Bury, Lancashire. It moved to Bovington—a British Army military base in Dorset.²⁹ From there, it went to Hursley, to await departure for the Front. The battalion landed at Boulogne, France, on 15 July 1915.³⁰ Evan was with the battalion.³¹

At the beginning of May 1916, Evan's battalion was in billets in Armentières, in northern France. On 6 May, the battalion moved to L'Épinette, where it relieved the 10th Battalion of the West Yorkshire Regiment. There was heavy enemy shelling on the support line and 17 direct hits that caused considerable damage on 8 May.³² It is not known how or when Evan was injured, but he died at No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station on 10 May of wounds to his throat and back.³³ His battalion returned to billets in Armentières on 16 May—Evan was not with them.

He was buried at Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension Nord (Plot II, Row D, Grave 43). Bailleul is in France, but near the Belgian border, about 15 kilometres southwest of Ypres. It was occupied in October 1914 and became an important hospital centre not just for No. 1 CCCS but also for No. 1 Australian and five British Army casualty clearing stations.³⁴

Evan's mother, who was living at Castle Weir Farm near Kington, Herefordshire, received a letter to notify her of her son's death.³⁵ His father received the monies owing to Evan by the army upon his death.³⁶

Evan was awarded posthumously the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918), the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre) and the 1914–15 Star (for service in the war against Germany between 5 August 1914 and 31 December 1915).³⁷

A year after the end of the war, Evan's sister Edith left for Argentina³⁸ to join her new husband, Geoffrey Newell, who was a railway official.³⁹ The development of the railway in Argentina began in the mid-1800s initially with Argentina capital. However, in the later half of the century, many railways were sold to foreign private interests—mainly British companies. Perhaps Geoffrey went to Argentina with one of these companies—he was probably an employee of the Great Western Railway, stationed in Reading, England, in 1904.⁴⁰ Geoffrey was a railway employee and living in Reading when he and Edith married in 1919.⁴¹

In 1939, Evan's parents were still living near Kington. Evan Sr., now a retired farm labourer, and Matilda were living at Jenkin's House, Neat End, Lyonshall, a couple of miles from Kington.⁴² Matilda was incapacitated by illness, but their daughter Nellie was living with them and looking after the domestic duties.

© 2018 BIFHSGO

¹ *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (www.cwgc.org: accessed 7 August 2018), entry for Richards, Evan James, Service No: 13096

² "National School Admission Registers & Log-books 1870–1914," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 25 October 2018), entry for Evan James Richards, Book type: Admissions, Archive reference: 44AA84_5, Folio/page no.: —

³ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 7 August 2018), entry for Richards, Evan James, Registration district: Weobley, Volume 06A, Page 503

⁴ "1939 England and Wales Register," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 7 August 2018), entry for Evan Richards, Schedule number: 42, Sub-schedule Number: 1, Enumeration district: OGHJ, Registration district: 341 1 (OK?)

⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 7 August 2018), entry for Evan Richards, Registration district: Knighton, Inferred county: Radnorshire, Volume: 11b, Page: 225

⁷ "National School Admission Registers & Log-books 1870–1914," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 25 October 2018), entries for Elizh Ann Richards, Book type: Admissions, Archive reference: 44AA84_5, Folio/page no.: —

⁸ "National School Admission Registers & Log-books 1870–1914," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 25 October 2018), entries for Mary Richards, Book type: Admissions, Archive reference: 44AA84_5, Folio / page no.: —

-
- ⁹ "National School Admission Registers & Log-books 1870–1914," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 25 October 2018), entries for Edward Richards, Book type: Admissions, Archive reference: 44AA84_5, Folio / page no.: —
- ¹⁰ "National School Admission Registers & Log-books 1870–1914," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 25 October 2018), entries for Edith Richards, Book type: Admissions, Archive reference: 44AA84_5, Folio / page no.: —
- ¹¹ "National School Admission Registers & Log-books 1870–1914," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 25 October 2018), entries for Gwladys [sic] M. Richards, Book type: Admissions, Archive reference: 44AA84_5, Folio / page no.: —
- ¹² "National School Admission Registers & Log-books 1870–1914," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 25 October 2018), entries for Jessie Richards, Book type: Admissions, Archive reference: 44AA84_5, Folio / page no.: —
- ¹³ "National School Admission Registers & Log-books 1870–1914," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 25 October 2018), entries for Kate Richards, Book type: Admissions, Archive reference: 44AA84_5, Folio / page no.: —
- ¹⁴ "1939 England and Wales Register," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 7 August 2018), entry for Evan Richards
- ¹⁵ "National School Admission Registers & Log-books 1870–1914," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 25 October 2018), entries for William Richards, Book type: Admissions, Archive reference: 44AA84_5, Folio / page no.: —
- ¹⁶ "1891 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 27 January 2018), entry for Evan James Richards
- ¹⁷ "National School Admission Registers & Log-books 1870–1914," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 25 October 2018), entry for Evan James Richards, Book type: Admissions, Archive reference: 44AA84_5, Folio / page no.: —
- ¹⁸ "National School Admission Registers & Log-books 1870–1914," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 25 October 2018), entries for Elizh Ann Richards, Mary Richards, Edward Richards, Edith Richards, Gwladys [sic] M. Richards, Jessie Richards, Kate Richards, Nellie Richards and William Richards
- ¹⁹ "1901 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 7 August 2018), entry for Evan James Richards, Registration district: Kington, Sub-registration district: Kington, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 8, Piece: 2500, Folio: 54, Page: 9, Household schedule number: 52
- ²⁰ "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 7 August 2018), entry for Evan Richards, Registration district: Kington, Registration district number: 341, Sub-registration district: Kington, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 11, Household schedule number: 71, Piece: 15857
- ²¹ "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 7 August 2018), entry for James Evan Richards [sic], Registration district: Runcorn, Registration district number: 446, Sub-registration district: Budworth, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 15, Piece: 21615
- ²² "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 7 August 2018), entry for Mary Richards, Registration district: Kington, Registration district number: 341, Sub-registration district: Kington, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 12, Household schedule number: 116, Piece: 15858
- ²³ "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 28 October 2018), entry for Edith May Richards, Registration district: Kington, Registration district number: 341, Sub-registration district: Kington, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 11, Household schedule number: 6, Piece: 15857
- ²⁴ "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 28 October 2018), entry for Edith May Richards, Registration district: Weobley, Registration district number: 338, Sub-registration district: Dilwyn, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 2, Household schedule number: 85, Piece: 15761
- ²⁵ "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 28 October 2018), entry for Gladys Matilda Richards, Registration district: Weobley, Registration district number: 338, Sub-registration district: Dilwyn, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 10, Household schedule number: 13, Piece: 15769

-
- ²⁶ School adm – W (OK?) “National School Admission Registers & Log-books 1870–1914,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 25 October 2018), entry for William Richards
- ²⁷ Based on “War Gratuity Calculator” (<https://wargratuity.wordpress.com/2015/08/16/gratuity-calculator/>: accessed 18 May 2017); “UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901–1929,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 7 August 2018), entry for Evan James Richards
- ²⁸ “British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914–1920,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 7 August 2018), entry for Evan J Richards
- ²⁹ “Bovington Camp,” *Wikipedia* (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bovington_Camp: accessed 25 October 2018)
- ³⁰ “10th (Service) Bn Lancashire Fusiliers Tours and Postings,” *Lancashire Fusiliers XX* (<https://www.lancs-fusiliers.co.uk/tourspostings/10LFToursPostings.htm>: accessed 25 October 2018)
- ³¹ “British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914–1920,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 7 August 2018), entry for Evan J Richards
- ³² “UK, WWI War Diaries (France, Belgium and Germany), 1914–1920,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 7 August 2018), Regiment or Unit: Lancashire Fusiliers, Sub Unit: 10th Battalion, Division: 17th Division, Diary Dates: 1915 Jul–1919 Mar, Piece Description: Piece 2012/1: 10 Battalion Lancashire Fusiliers (1915 Jul–1919 Mar) Piece Number: 2012
- ³³ “No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station,” *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* (www.bifhsgo.ca: accessed 7 August 2018), entry for Richardson, J. [sic]
- ³⁴ “Bailleul Community Cemetery, Nord,” *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (www.cwgc.org: accessed 17 January 2017)
- ³⁵ “No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station,” *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* (www.bifhsgo.ca: accessed 7 August 2018), entry for Richardson, J. [sic]
- ³⁶ “UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901–1929,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 7 August 2018), entry for Evan James Richards
- ³⁷ “British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914–1920,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 7 August 2018), entry for Evan J Richards
- ³⁸ “UK, Outward Passenger Lists, 1890–1960,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 25 October 2018), entry for Edith May Newell
- ³⁹ “London, England, Church of England Marriages and Banns, 1754–1932,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 25 October 2018), entry for Edith May Richards
- ⁴⁰ “UK, Railway Employment Records, 1833–1956,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 1 November 2018), entry for Geoffrey Newell
- ⁴¹ “London, England, Church of England Marriages and Banns, 1754–1932,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 25 October 2018), entry for Edith May Richards
- ⁴² “1939 England and Wales Register,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 7 August 2018), entry for Evan Richards