

Private T.D. Evans, ASC Ypres – 5th August 1917 (Age 27).

28891 - Private Thomas David Evans - 8th Battalion, Border Regiment



ASC, as inscribed on the Ebenezer tablet, is the Army Service Corps (becoming the 'Royal' Army Service Corps in late 1918), and while Thomas enlisted in the ASC, he subsequently served in the Border Regiment and was part of its 8th Battalion when he died. The St James' Memorial correctly notes '8th Border Regt'.

Thomas David Evans was born in Pentyrch about 1892 to William and Elizabeth. William was noted as a Farmer. They were Welsh speakers [first language] and appear to have had a 14-year-old servant, Edmund Arnold.

In 1901 the family was recorded as living at Mount Pleasant, Lisvane where, in 1911, Thomas was noted as a 'milkman'. At some point he went to work in the engineering department of the Gelli Colliery, Ystrad, while his [widowed] mother moved to Graig Farm in Llanishen.

Thomas had one younger brother Isaac William (born 1896) and two younger sisters, Gwenllian (born 1894) and Elizabeth Ann [Annie] (born 1899). We believe Isaac, known as William, married Elsie Maud Edwards (b.1896) in 1922 and lived in Cyncoed Road, Cardiff. They had a daughter, Linda. Isaac died 16th August 1953.

We do not know exactly when Thomas enlisted, but he was apparently well known in motoring circles which might explain why he signed up to serve with the Army Service Corps. It appears he served with this regiment for a time at the Salonika front in Greece before being transferred to several different infantry regiments.

We believe he first transferred to the Welch Regiment, then the Lancashire Fusiliers before joining the Border Regiment

In any event, by 1917 he was serving with 8th Battalion, The Border Regiment in the Ypres Salient, during the ongoing Battle of Passchendaele.

We do not know the exact circumstances of his death and his remains were not recovered. He is commemorated at Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.

The 8th Battalion, Border Regiment had seen action in the front line and by August 1917, was held in reserve. However, the reserve line was still in the line of fire and suffered constant shelling, which is when and how Thomas was likely killed. This theory is supported by the fact that there were no remains of poor Thomas to be buried.



Troops of the Border Regiment at rest.

The one obvious question we have not found a definitive answer for is why Thomas is noted on both the Ebenezer plaque and St James' Church Memorial in Rudry as we can find no connection through birth or residence... although the area of Lisvane where they lived is less than a mile from St James and they were certainly members of the Ebenezer Congregational Chapel in Rudry.