



Thomas Henry Williams

From a Ploughman and Son of a Sailor, to an Infantryman on the Somme

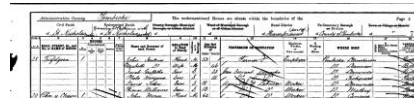
Born : 9th December 1886 in Abercastle
 Parents: John and Margaret Williams – father was a sailor
 Married: Mary Ann Evans in Saron Chapel, Letterston January 1907
 Lived : Trecwn
 Children: Margaret Ann (1907); Elizabeth Mary (1908); James (1911); George (1912); William John (1914); Emlyn (1915); Martha Jane (1916); Thomas (1918) born posthumously
 Died : 27th December 1917, Boulon Wood, Cambrai, France
 Service Number 267123 17th (Service) Battalion Welsh Regiment

Thomas Henry Williams was born in 1907 in Abercastle and was brought up in the village of Mathry. At the age of 13 he was working on a farm in St Nicholas as an agriculture labourer. In 1907 he married Mary Ann Evans and the young couple lived in Llygadyrhaul, Trecwn with Thomas working as a ploughman. He enlisted in May 1916 and was attached to the 17th (Service) Battalion of the Welsh Regiment.

The 17th (Service) Battalion was a Bantam Battalion who after training in the UK proceeded to France in June 1916. Before going to France the Battalion was transferred to the 119th Brigade, 40th Division. After his initial training Thomas would have followed his battalion and joined them in France. The Division was concentrated near Lillers from where they went into the front line near Loos and were later in action in The Battle of the Ancre on the Somme. In 1917 they saw action during the German retreat to the Hindenburg Line, the capture of Fifteen Ravine, Villers Plouich, Beaucamp and La Vacquerie and The Cambrai Operations, including the capture of Bourlon Wood in November. Thomas was killed the following month on the 27th December – his body was initially buried in Bourlon Wood but was subsequently moved to the St Leger British Cemetery.
 His youngest son Thomas Ivor was born in April 1918, following his father's death.



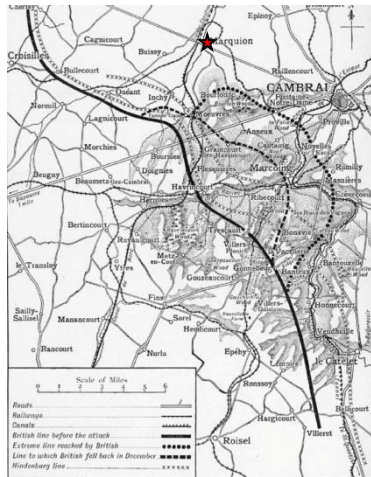
1891 census



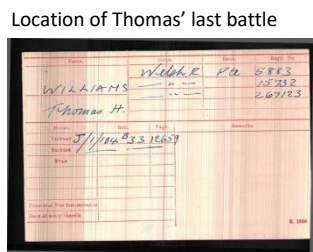
1901 census



1911 census



6 of the 8 children made fatherless William on the left died in WW2



Location of Thomas' last battle



His grave in the St Leger British Cemetery

Remembered on the Jordonston Memorial

In Memory of
 Private
Thomas Henry Williams
 267123, 17th Bn. Welsh Regiment who died on 27 December 1917 Age 30
 Son of John and Margaret Williams, of Shedy, Ffiggant, husband of Mary Anne Williams, of Park Cottage, Feltrach, Penreochshire.
 Remembered with Honour
 St Leger British Cemetery

Commemored in perpetuity by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

At the outset of the Great War, The Marquis De Ruigny's intention to create a Roll of Honour with biographies of all casualties, seemed feasible but as the War dragged on and casualty numbers rose it became obviously unachievable. Of the 700,000+ who died, only 26,000 were recorded in his Roll of Honour which was originally published in five volumes
 Thomas Henry Williams was one of the few

The Roll of Honour

WILLIAMS, SAMUEL WYNNE, 2nd Class Steward, H.M.S. Vanguard, only 4 of the late John Williams, by the late Margt. Ellen, and son of James Williams, of a Crossfield Terrace, Mathry. A 18 Aug. 1886, was employed in the shipboard and after a time, and subsequently was a Ploughman on the estate and South of the River, before his enlistment in the Welsh Regiment, 1916, and was killed in action on 27 Dec. 1917, aged 30. Buried in the Welsh Regiment, London.

WILLIAMS, WILLIAM ALFRED, 2nd Class Steward, H.M.S. Vanguard, only 4 of the late John Williams, by the late Margt. Ellen, and son of James Williams, of a Crossfield Terrace, Mathry. A 18 Aug. 1886, was employed in the shipboard and after a time, and subsequently was a Ploughman on the estate and South of the River, before his enlistment in the Welsh Regiment, 1916, and was killed in action on 27 Dec. 1917, aged 30. Buried in the Welsh Regiment, London.

WILLIAMS, THOMAS, Private, 1st Bn. Welsh Regiment, 1916, was killed in action on 27 Dec. 1917, aged 30. Buried in the Welsh Regiment, London.

GANNON, WILLIAM, ALEXANDER, 2nd Class Steward, H.M.S. Vanguard, only 4 of the late John Williams, by the late Margt. Ellen, and son of James Williams, of a Crossfield Terrace, Mathry. A 18 Aug. 1886, was employed in the shipboard and after a time, and subsequently was a Ploughman on the estate and South of the River, before his enlistment in the Welsh Regiment, 1916, and was killed in action on 27 Dec. 1917, aged 30. Buried in the Welsh Regiment, London.