

Sergeant David Vaughan Evans

David's father was born in 1859 in the parish of Mydrine, Carmarthenshire and his mother, Elizabeth, in 1864, at Llanfair P G, Anglesey a village with the longest name in the world:-

Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwlllantysiliogogoch.

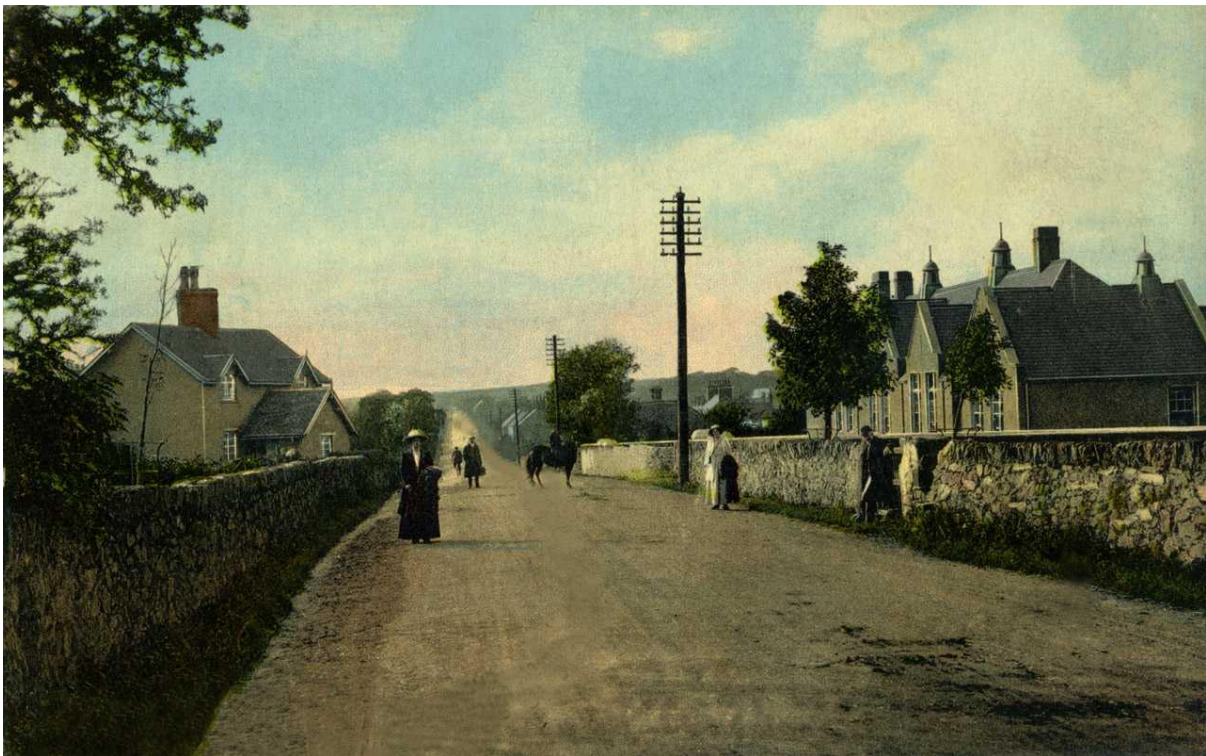


Figure 1: Llanfair P G, Anglesey

David and Elizabeth were married around 1884.ⁱ By 1885, David had found work as a cabinet maker in Birmingham. Their two children, Thomas John and David Vaughan were born in Aston in 1885 and 1886 respectively.

The 1891 census recorded the family living at 6 Kensington Gardens, Balsall Heath.

By 1901 David (senior) had become a foreman at his work place, His eldest son, Thomas, was an apprentice cabinet maker and David, a manufacturer's clerk, quite likely in the same business establishment as their father, The address the census gave for the family was 65 Woodfield Road, Balsall Heath

By 1911, Thomas had left home, but his brother David remained living with his parents at 18 St Mary's Row, Moseley. (In 1918, Gough & Sons ran a business from that address. In 1923 it was pharmacy but is now Piquant, a curry houseⁱⁱ).

David senior branched out and became an upholsterer as well as a cabinet maker. Elizabeth assisted in the business but David became an insurance inspector.

When war was declared, David enlisted in the Royal Field Artillery (RFA) as a signaller at Swansea. His RFA Number was 982. On 21 November 1915 David proceeded to France but due to the effects of an accident, he was transferred to an office job. Around the middle of 1917, he was posted to Egypt as a Sergeant, No 725339, with the 268th Brigade, a Territorial Force 1st Line Howitzer Brigade. It was a new unit formed in June 1917, joining the 74th Division on 23rd July that same year.ⁱⁱⁱ The Brigade took part in the Third Battle of Gaza, from 27th October to 7th November 1917, the capture of the Sheria Position on 6th November and, just over a month later, the capture of Jerusalem on 9th December.^{iv}

We do not know the circumstances of David's death but he died on 21st December 1917 at No 15 General Hospital, Alexandria, aged 31 years of age. David is buried at Alexandria (Hadra) War Memorial Cemetery. He is also commemorated at St Mary's Church, Moseley and is on the Roll of Honour at Birmingham's Hall of Memory.

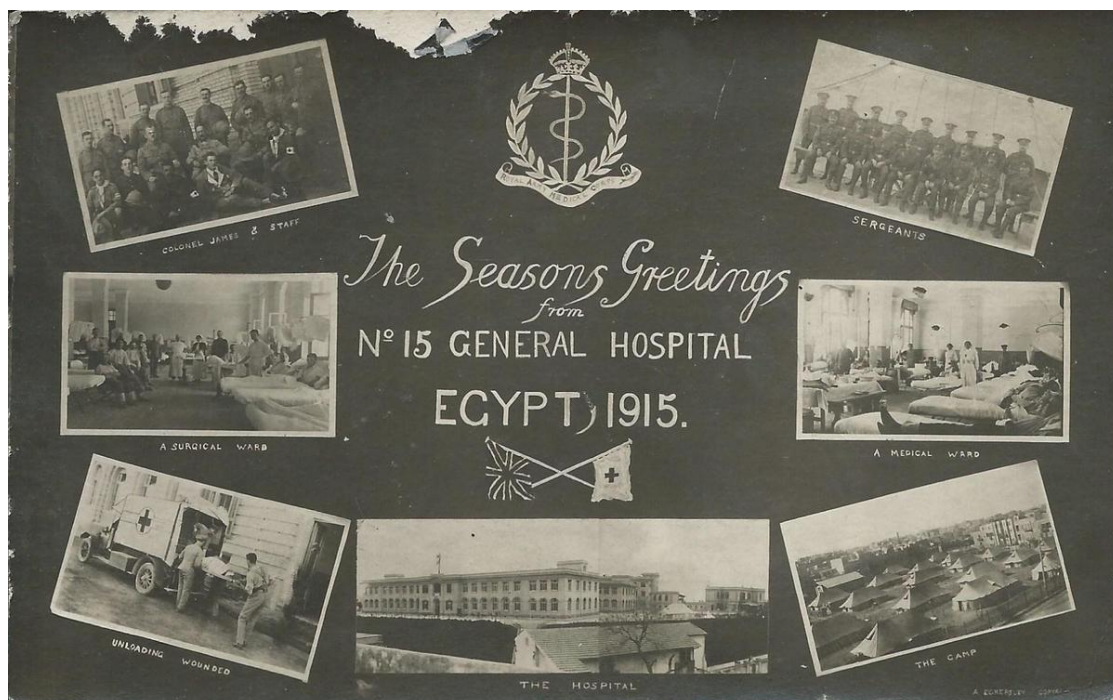


Figure 2: No 15, General Hospital, Alexandria, Egypt

At the time of his death his parents, David and Elizabeth, were living at Herbert House, 90 Alcester Road, Moseley



**Figure 3: (Left) Alexandria (Hadra) War Memorial Cemetery
(Right) WW1 memorial at St Mary's Church, Moseley**

David's brother, Thomas, also served in the *Great War*. On 17th August 1915, he attested for Short Service, for the duration of the war, at Grove Park, Greenwich, a training centre for the Army Service Corps (ASC). He became Private T Evans, No 118758. At the time of his enlistment Thomas was a coach body builder living at 32 College Road, Saltley with his wife Eva May (née Fisher) whom he had married on 8th August 1911. Thomas and Eva had a son Eric Thomas born 25th September 1914 in Aston.

On 2nd October 1916, Thomas joined 591 Coy, ASC in France as part of the Third Army. The 591 Coy was a transport unit, using petrol-driven vehicles.^v He was appointed an acting Lance-Corporal on 27th February 1916 and finished the war as a Sergeant. He was demobilised on 5th July 1919 at Woolwich Dockyard with a disability allowance as a result of an injury to his knee.^{vi}

In the 1939 Register, Thomas was recorded as a widower and living at 179 Moor End Lane, Erdington, Birmingham. He was working as a coach body builder. Living with him was his son Eric, aged 25, a forge press man making aluminium alloys and daughter, Maisie, born in 1920, a shorthand typist. Maisie married Herbert Holland in 1942.

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Endnotes

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- i 1911 census records David and Elizabeth had been married for 27 years
 - ii *Birmingham Mail*, 18.1.1918
Western Daily Press, 9.6.1923
 - iii Soldiers who died in the Great War 1914-1919
British Army WW1 Medal Index
Commonwealth War Graves Commission Dept of Honour
Birmingham Daily Mail, 28th December 1917
The Long, Long Trail, RFA in WW1
 - iv 74th (Yeomanry) Division
<http://www.longlongtrail.co.uk/army/order-of-battle-of-divisions/74th-yeomanry-division/>
 - v The Long, Long Trail: ASC Mechanical Transport Companies
 - vi British Army Service Records

Illustrations

- Figure 1 Old postcards of Anglesey
<http://www.oldukphotos.com/graphics/Wales%20Photos/Anglesey,%20Llanfair%20Pwllgwyngyll%20c1905%20-%201280pix.jpg>
- Figure 2 Great War Forum
<http://1914-1918.invisionzone.com/forums/topic/142182-no15-general-hospital-alexandria/>
- Figure 3 Alexandria (Hadra) War Memorial Cemetery, Commonwealth War Graves Commission