



EVANS FAMILY



EVANS

Frederick Edwin

Service No: 3284A



Frederick Edwin Evans
Courtesy National Archives of Australia

Family History

David Evans, born in 1832, arrived in Western Australia on the 11th February 1861, aboard the convict ship *Palmerston*. He was a semi-literate farm labourer when he was convicted of sheep stealing and sentenced to ten years in the Colony. David also was a widower, and he left two children behind in England.

David received his Ticket of Leave in November 1861, his Conditional Pardon in 1865 and his Certificate of Freedom in December 1867.

On the 25th September 1869, he married Mary Fleming in the Roman Catholic church at York. She had arrived from Ireland in the year of her birth, 1854, with her parents, William and Brigid. David and Mary had eleven children, three of whom would serve during World War One.

David worked as a farm labourer around the York area from 1873 to 1876. Between 1876 and 1889, he farmed at "Qualen" and "Arnold Park," where he sometimes employed up to eight Ticket of Leave men as servants and gatherers of gum.

Tragedy struck the family in December 1889. Elizabeth Evans (aged thirteen) and her sister, Ellen, (aged nine) were badly burnt when one of them tried to adjust a kerosene lamp. The wick fell into the kerosene and the lamp exploded. The girls' dresses caught fire, and they raced outside, screaming for help. Unfortunately, the breeze fanned the flames and, though their mother was able to extinguish the blaze, Elizabeth could not be saved, and her sister was so severely injured that she passed away early in 1890. The local community raised funds to assist the grieving family but, their bad luck continued when Mary died in childbirth in 1894. The child did not survive.

David lived on until 1912. He died on the 18th March, aged eighty, and was buried in the York Cemetery. A newspaper report of his passing stated that David had been unable to work for some years due to suffering ill-health.

INFORMATION

Name: Frederick Edwin Evans

Service number: 3284A

Date of enlistment: 13/11/1916

Age at Enlistment: 32 years 4 months

Civil Occupation: Senior Linesman (P.M.G.)

Medals, Honours, Awards: British War Medal and
the Victory Medal

Height: 5 feet 9 inches

Chest measurement: 35 inches

Complexion: Fair

Eye Colour: Blue

Hair Colour: Brown

Father: David Evans

Mother: Mary Fleming

Siblings: John b. 1870, William James 1873-1873, David b. 1874, Elizabeth
1877-1889 (died of burns), Ellen b. 1880-1890, George b. 1882, Matthew b.
1886, William Henry b. 1889 Ernest b. 1890, Albert Victor 1893-1893.

Wife: Jessie Eleanor Cook



Courtesy National Archives
of Australia

Life Story

Frederick Edwin Evans was born at York in 1884. He was the seventh child of David Evans and Mary Fleming.

At the time of his enlistment, in November 1916, Frederick, known as Fred, was working as a senior linesman for the Postmaster General's Department at Israelite Bay. He left Fremantle on the 29th December 1916, aboard the HMAT *Persic*.

Fred served with the 46th Battalion. The unit disembarked at Devonport, England on the 3rd March 1917, and, only six days later, he was in a military hospital, suffering from an undisclosed illness. Fred left hospital on the 14th March but was briefly admitted to Parkhouse Military Hospital between the 8th and 13th May.

Fred finally arrived in France on the 16th July 1917 and, on the 14th August, he was Taken on Strength with the 46th Battalion in the Field.

On the 13th October, Fred was Wounded in Action. He was taken to the 3rd Australian Field Ambulance before being admitted to the 11th General Hospital with gas poisoning and transferred to hospital in England. Fred would not return to the Front.

Discharged to Hurdcott Camp on the 28th November, he reported to the Overseas Training Brigade in February but presented at the Military Hospital on the 1st March 1918, suffering from anaemia and the effects of gas poisoning.

Fred spent the next few months in England before being sent back to Australia on the AHT *Carpentaria* in August 1918.

On the 15th November, soon after his return, Fred married Jessie Eleanor Cook, the sister of Trooper Malcolm S. Cook, at Norseman. The couple went on to have two children.

Fred Evans returned to his employment with the P.M.G. and remained there until 1947, when he retired and moved to the Norseman area where he had farming interests.

Fred's wife, Jessie, died on the 31st July 1949 at Esperance and is buried in the Esperance cemetery.

In 1951, Fred left Western Australia to live with his son in Sydney. However, at some point he returned to W.A., where he died on the 20th March 1967. He was buried at Karrakatta Cemetery.

Acknowledgements

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Harvey, Heather
Clarke, Cathy

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[Accessed 20 August 2022]

EVANS

Ernest

Service No: 6508



PTE. E. EVANS

(Missing since April 11.)

INFORMATION

Name: Ernest Evans

Service number: 6508

Date of enlistment: 14/4/1916

Age at Enlistment: 25 years 5 months

Civil Occupation: Railway Employee

Medals, Honours, Awards: British War Medal
and the Victory Medal

Height: 5 feet 7 ½ inches

Weight: 142 Lbs.

Chest measurement: 37 ½ inches

Complexion: Dark

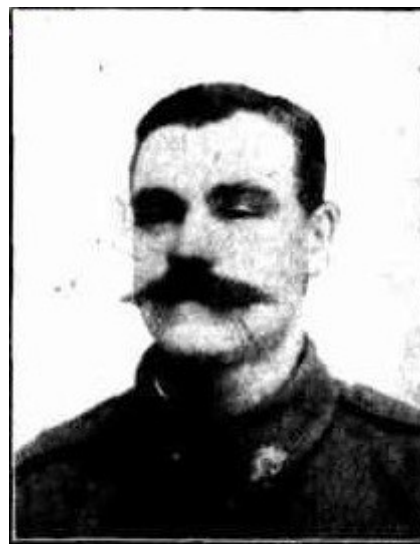
Eye Colour: Grey

Hair Colour: Dark

Father: David Evans

Mother: Mary Fleming

Siblings: John b. 1870, William James 1873-1873, David b. 1874, Elizabeth
1877-1889 (died of burns), Ellen b. 1880-1890, George b. 1882, Frederick b.
1884, Matthew b. 1886, William Henry b. 1889, Albert Victor 1893-1893.



PTE. E. EVANS
(Missing since April 11.)

Courtesy National Archives of
Australia

Life Story

Henry Ernest Evans, the tenth child of David Evans and Mary Fleming, was born at York in 1890.

Henry, known as Ernest, enlisted at Merredin, where he was working as a railway employee, and embarked from Fremantle aboard A39 *Pt Macquarie* on the 13th October 1916, bound for England.

Ernest arrived in Plymouth on the 12th December and joined the 4th Training Battalion at Codford before proceeding overseas to France on the 8th February 1917.

On the 13th February, Ernest was Taken on Strength with the 16th Battalion in the Field. Just over three weeks' later, he was reported as Missing in Action.

A Court of Inquiry, held in the Field on the 30th October, 1917, concluded that Ernest had been Killed in Action on the 11th April. A notation on his service record reads "Anzac section, 3rd Echelon G.H.Q. B.E.F."

Another document in his records, dated the 17th March, 1918, is a statement by Thomas Joseph, an Australian Prisoner of War at Friedrichsfeld P.O.W. camp, in which he states that he saw Ernest killed at Bullecourt on the 11th April 1917:

I saw him killed by shellfire. A part of his head was off.

Thomas served with the 16th Battalion, and he was wounded and reported missing on the same day as Ernest. Thomas was subsequently captured and sent to Friedrichsfeld POW camp, from where he gave his statement.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P01981.020

Australian Prisoners of War (POW) at Friedrichsfeld POW camp Germany
3rd March 1918.

Courtesy Australian War Memorial

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EVANS

William Henry

Service No: 3096

INFORMATION

Name: William Henry Evans

Service number: 3096

Date of enlistment: 31/7/1916

Age at Enlistment: 29 years 6 months

Civil Occupation: Railway Fetterer

Medals, Honours, Awards: British War Medal, Victory Medal, 1914/15 Star

Height: 5 feet 6 ½ inches

Weight: 157 Lbs.

Chest measurement: 33 inches

Complexion: Dark

Eye Colour: Brown

Hair Colour: Black

Father: David Evans

Mother: Mary Fleming

Siblings: John b. 1870, William James 1873-1873, David b. 1874, Elizabeth 1877-1889 (died of burns), Ellen b. 1880-1890, George b. 1882, Frederick b. 1884, Matthew b. 1886, Albert Victor 1893-1893, Ernest b. 1890

Wife: Ruby Florence Amy Mead

Life Story

William Henry Evans, the son of David Evans and Mary Fleming, was born at York in 1889. He was known as Henry.

In 1915, Henry married Ruby Florence Mead in Perth. She was the daughter of Mark Henry Mead and Jane Pusey and had been born in Northam in 1888.

The couple made their home in Victoria Park, and Henry made his living as a railway fettler/fitter (someone who maintains railway lines). Their time together was short, however, as Henry enlisted at Bunbury on the 31st July 1916. Their first son, Kenneth, was born that same year.

On the 9th November 1916, Henry embarked aboard the *Argyllshire* at Fremantle, bound for England. He arrived on the 10th January 1917 and, two months' later, proceeded overseas to France.

21st April, Henry was Taken on Strength with the 5th Pioneer Battalion in the Field. He remained there until the 27th February 1918, when he was granted two week's leave in the United Kingdom.

On the 18th April 1918, Henry was Wounded in Action and taken to hospital suffering from the effects of gas. He was invalided back to the U.K. and admitted to the War Hospital in Exeter, where he remained until the 12th June.

On his discharge, Henry was assigned to the No. 4 Command Depot at Hurdcott before transferring to the Overseas Training Brigade in the middle of September. He finally proceeded overseas to France on the 17th October and re-joined his unit in the Field on the 21st.

Henry must have been struggling to cope with the effects of the gas as, only two months' later, he was detached from his unit to face a Medical Board. The Board sent Henry to England where, on the 9th February 1919, he was returned to Australia aboard the *Ascanius*.

After the War, Henry took up a 283-acre property on the Trigwell Estate, in the Boyanup area, as part of the Soldier Settlement Scheme. By 1920, he was listed in the Post Office Directories for Boyanup, where he remained until his death.

In November 1922, Henry was called as a witness by the Royal Commission into Repatriated Soldiers of the A.I.F. He spoke of the exorbitant costs and difficulties associated with clearing his land:

...We want the bank to take over all liabilities on the estate, to take it out of the hands of the Lands Department altogether, to put us on the same footing as improved properties. We have all been threatened with forfeitures for non-payment of rent, it is impossible to keep the rents up.

Henry was also the secretary of the Boyanup branch of the R.S.L.

Henry died on the 2nd April 1933, aged forty-three, after an operation for appendicitis. He was buried in the Boyanup cemetery. Interestingly, the date on his headstone is 1932, not 1933, so perhaps the headstone was added at a later date. Henry left behind his wife, Ruby, and five children.

Ruby remained in Boyanup and, from 1939 to 1949, she is listed as a dairy farmer. She remarried in 1949, to Clement Butcher, in the Wellington district. After her death, in October 1972, Ruby was buried in the Boyanup Cemetery, as was her son, Kenneth, in 1982.

Acknowledgements

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