

Hedd Wyn

The farmer, the poet and the soldier

You may have heard of Hedd Wyn.

His real name was Ellis Humphrey Evans and he lived in Trawsfynydd. He is remembered for being a famous poet but he ended his life as a soldier. In January 1916 the Military Service Act was passed. This meant that all single men aged between 18 and 41 had to go to war. It was called conscription. Men who were medically unfit, clergymen, teachers and certain classes of industrial workers such as farmers did not have to join.



RAWF



GEM
We connect & learn together



Ariennir gan
Lywodraeth Cymru
Funded by
Welsh Government

Ellis did not want to join up. One son from every farm had to enlist. He was the eldest and he was determined not to allow his younger brother to go to war. So he decided he had to join the army himself even though he never thought he could kill anyone.

How do you think he felt?
How did his family feel?

COUNTY OF CARNARVON MEN ARE URGENTLY REQUIRED FOR THE ROYAL WELSH FUSILIERS KITCHENER'S ARMY.

All information can be obtained and Recruits can be enlisted at any of the following Stations:

District.	Recruiter.	Address.
1. Aber, Llanfairfechan and Penmaenmawr	Mr. W. Timmins	School House, Llanfairfechan
2. Bangor & Bethesda	Mr. L. D. Jones	Town Hall, Bangor
3. Bettwysydd, Trefriw and Penmachub	Penr.-Sergt.-Major Chesterman	Pont-y-Pair Hotel, Bettwysydd
4. Conway & Deganwy	Penr.-Q.-M.-Sgt. Thos. Ellis	Town Hall, Conway
5. Llandudno	Mr. Arthur Hewitt	Lloyd St., Llandudno

Treborrh,
Bangor.
Oct. 26th, 1914.

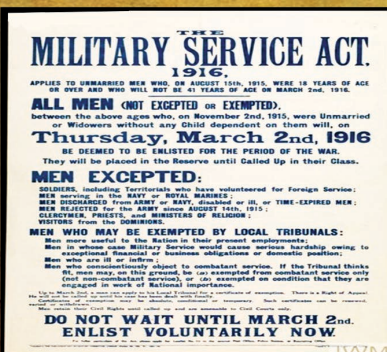
H. R. DAVIES

Recruiting Officer for Carnarvonshire.

GOD SAVE THE KING.

Jarvis & Foster, Printers, Bangor.

Create your own conscription poster here



(2023) W. 1020-414 11/11, 1/1000 J.T.A.S., Ltd. Army Form B. 2512.

SHORT SERVICE.
(For the Duration of the War, with the Colours and in the Army Reserve.)

ATTESTATION OF

No. _____ Name _____ Corps _____

Questions to be put to the Recruit before Enlistment.

1. What is your Name? ... 1.
2. What is your full Address? ... 2.
3. Are you a British Subject? ... 3.
4. What is your Age? ... 4. Years ... Months ...
5. What is your Trade or Calling? ... 5.
6. Are you Married? ... 6.
7. Have you ever served in any branch of His Majesty's Force, naval or military, if not, which? ... 7.
8. Are you willing to be vaccinated or re-vaccinated? ... 8.
9. Are you willing to be enlisted for General Service? ... 9.
10. Did you receive a Tattoo, and do you understand its meaning, and who gave it to you? ... 10. { Name ... Corps ... }
11. Are you willing to serve upon the following conditions provided His Majesty should so long require your services?
For the Duration of the War, at the end of which you will be discharged with all convenient speed. You will be required to serve for one day with the Colours and the remainder of the period in the Army Reserve, in accordance with the provisions of the Royal Warrant dated 20th Oct., 1914, until such time as you may be called up by order of the Army Council. If employed with Hospitals, Depots of Mounted Units, or as a Clerk, etc., you may be retained after the termination of hostilities until your services can be spared, but such retention shall in no case exceed six months. ... 11.

I, _____ do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and that I am willing to fulfil the engagements made.

SIGNATURE OF RECRUIT.

Signature of Witness.

OATH TO BE TAKEN BY RECRUIT ON ATTESTATION.

I, _____ sworn by Almighty God, that I will be faithful and bear true Allegiance to His Majesty King George the Fifth, His Heirs, and Successors, and that I will, as in duty bound, honestly and faithfully defend His Majesty, His Heirs, and Successors, in Person, Crown, and Dignity against all enemies, and will observe and obey all orders of His Majesty, His Heirs, and Successors, and of the Generals and Officers set over me. So help me God.

CERTIFICATE OF MAGISTRATE OR ATTESTING OFFICER.

The Recruit above named was cautioned by me that if he made any false answer to any of the above questions he would be liable to be punished as provided in the Army Act.

The above questions were then read to the Recruit in my presence.

I have taken care that he understands each question, and that his answer to each question has been duly entered as replied to, and the said Recruit has made and signed the declaration and taken the oath before me at _____ on this _____ day of _____ 19____.

Signature of the Justice (Judge) J. Owen Hughes. J. P. 6

I certify that this Attestation of the above-named Recruit is correct, and properly filled up, and that the required forms appear to have been complied with. I accordingly approve, and appoint him to the _____ 3rd Bn. Royal Welch Fusiliers.

If enlisted by special authority, Army Form B. 203 (or other authority for the enlistment) will be attached to the original attestation.

Date _____ Approving Officer. _____

Place _____

The signature of the Approving Officer is to be affixed in the presence of the Recruit.

Ellis joined up In February 1917.

He would have to fill in a form like this.
He became Private Ellis Humphrey Evans,
71116, 15th Battalion, Royal Welsh Fusiliers.

Unfortunately in September 1940 in World War 2, many of these records were destroyed by an incendiary bomb. This included Ellis' records.

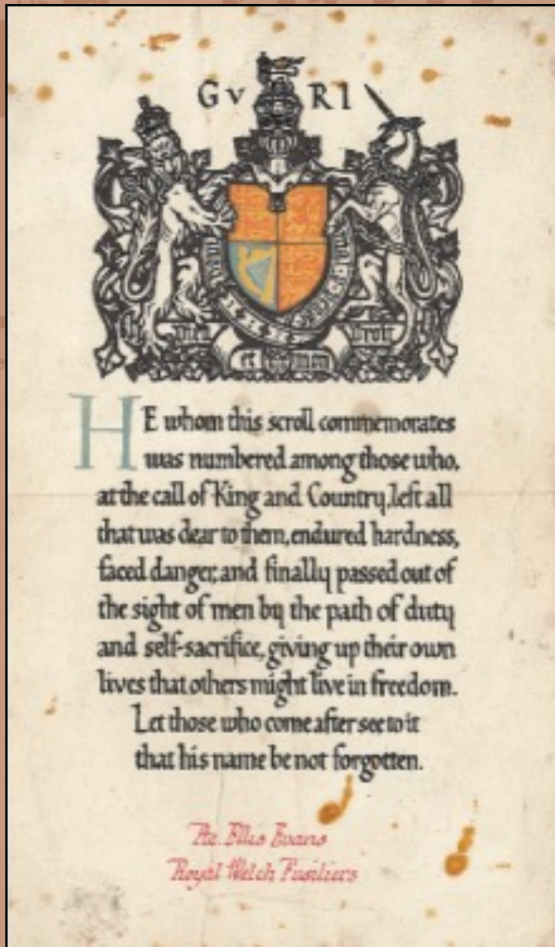
Using information you can find here and elsewhere, can you fill in a form for Ellis on the next page?

Name	Corps	Rank	Serial No.
EVANS.	R. W. Fus.	Pte.	61117
Ellis H.			
Medal	Unit	Page	Remarks
Victory	14/01/93	7537	
Barrow	do	do	663
Star			
Thanks of War Staff served in			
Date of entry therein			

K. 1280

Correspondence

Address



File proposed Reg 5 Wales 25-0-1917 5/10/17

Evans.

Mrs Mary.

Merioneth

Grawof. gnydd.

Ysgwen.

No 61117. Pte. Ellis Humphrey Evans

P. H. 7.

Gathering the evidence about Hedd Wyn the soldier



Army Form B. 2512.

SHORT SERVICE.

(For the Duration of the War, with the Colours and in the Army Reserve.)

ATTESTATION OF

No. _____ Name _____ Corps _____

Card No. _____

Questions to be put to the Recruit before Enlistment.

1. What is your Name? ... 1.
2. What is your full Address? ... 2.
3. Are you a British Subject? ... 3.
4. What is your Age? ... 4. Years..... Months.....
5. What is your Trade or Calling? ... 5.
6. Are you Married? ... 6.
7. Have you ever served in any branch of His Majesty's Forces, naval or military, if so,* which? 7.
8. Are you willing to be vaccinated or re-vaccinated? 8.
9. Are you willing to be enlisted for General Service? 9.
10. Did you receive a Notice, and do you understand its meaning, and who gave it to you? 10. { Name.....
Corps.....
11. Are you willing to serve upon the following conditions provided His Majesty should so long require your services?
For the Duration of the War, at the end of which you will be discharged with all convenient speed. You will be required to serve for one day with the Colours and the remainder of the period in the Army Reserve, in accordance with the provisions of the Royal Warrant dated 20th Oct., 1915, until such time as you may be called up by order of the Army Council. If employed with Hospitals, Depots of Mounted Units, or as a Clerk, etc., you may be retained after the termination of hostilities until your services can be spared, but such retention shall in no case exceed six months. 11.....

I, _____ do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and that I am willing to fulfil the engagements made.

SIGNATURE OF RECRUIT.

Signature of Witness.

OATH TO BE TAKEN BY RECRUIT ON ATTESTATION.

I, _____ swear by Almighty God, that I will be faithful and bear true Allegiance to His Majesty King George the Fifth, His Heirs, and Successors, and that I will, as in duty bound, honestly and faithfully defend His Majesty, His Heirs, and Successors, in Person, Crown, and Dignity against all enemies, and will observe and obey all orders of His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, and of the Generals and Officers set over me. So help me God.

CERTIFICATE OF MAGISTRATE OR ATTESTING OFFICER.

The Recruit above named was cautioned by me that if he made any false answer to any of the above questions he would be liable to be punished as provided in the Army Act.

The above questions were then read to the Recruit in my presence.

I have taken care that he understands each question, and that his answer to each question has been duly entered as replied to, and the said Recruit has made and signed the declaration and taken the oath before me at _____

on this _____ day of _____ 19 _____

Signature of the Justice (Seal) *J. Owen Hughes* *J. P. County of ...*

† Certificate of Approving Officer.

I certify that this Attestation of the above-named Recruit is correct, and properly filled up, and that the required forms appear to have been complied with. I accordingly approve, and appoint him to the *3rd ...*

If enlisted by special authority, Army Form B. 203 (or other authority for the enlistment) will be attached to the original attestation.

Date _____
Place _____ } Approving Officer.

† The signature of the Approving Officer is to be affixed in the presence of the Recruit.

Ellis trained to be a soldier at Litherland Camp, Liverpool.



Men, like Ellis who once worked on farms, and other jobs had to learn how to work together to win the war. They began their training with physical fitness exercises, learning how to march, to follow commands and how to use their weapons.



In March 1917, the government called for farm workers to help with ploughing so many soldiers were temporarily released. Ellis was given seven weeks' leave and was allowed to go home to help on the farm.

He spent a lot of time working on a poem Yr Arwr ("The Hero"), that he was going to enter in the National Eisteddfod calling himself Fleur de Lys.

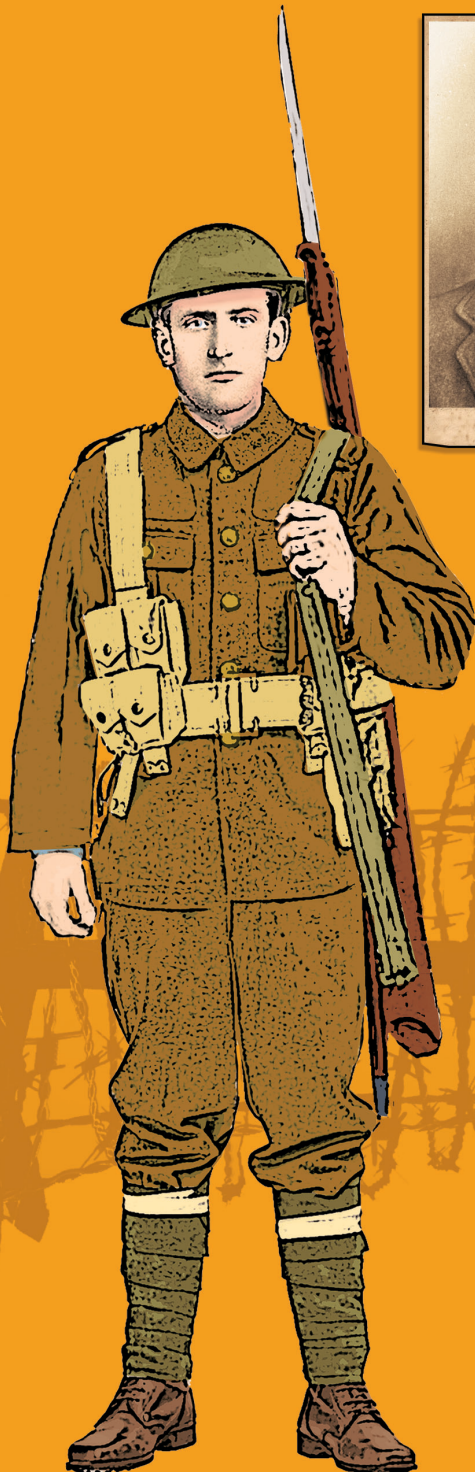
According to his nephew, Gerald Williams, "It was a wet year in 1917. He came back for fourteen days leave and wrote the poem, Yr Arwr, on the table by the fire. As it was such a wet year, he stayed for another seven days. This extra seven days made him a deserter. So the military police came to fetch him from the hayfield and took him to the jail at Blaenau. From there he travelled to the war in Belgium. "

I'm Ellis Evans — Private Ellis Evans, 71116.

**I'm the first person ever in my family to be a soldier. The first to fight for my country.
For I'd never really been far from Trawsfynydd.
I was a farm boy and my brothers and I
worked in the fields every day.**



Put Ellis in uniform. Draw his face and colour his uniform in khaki.



Postcard home

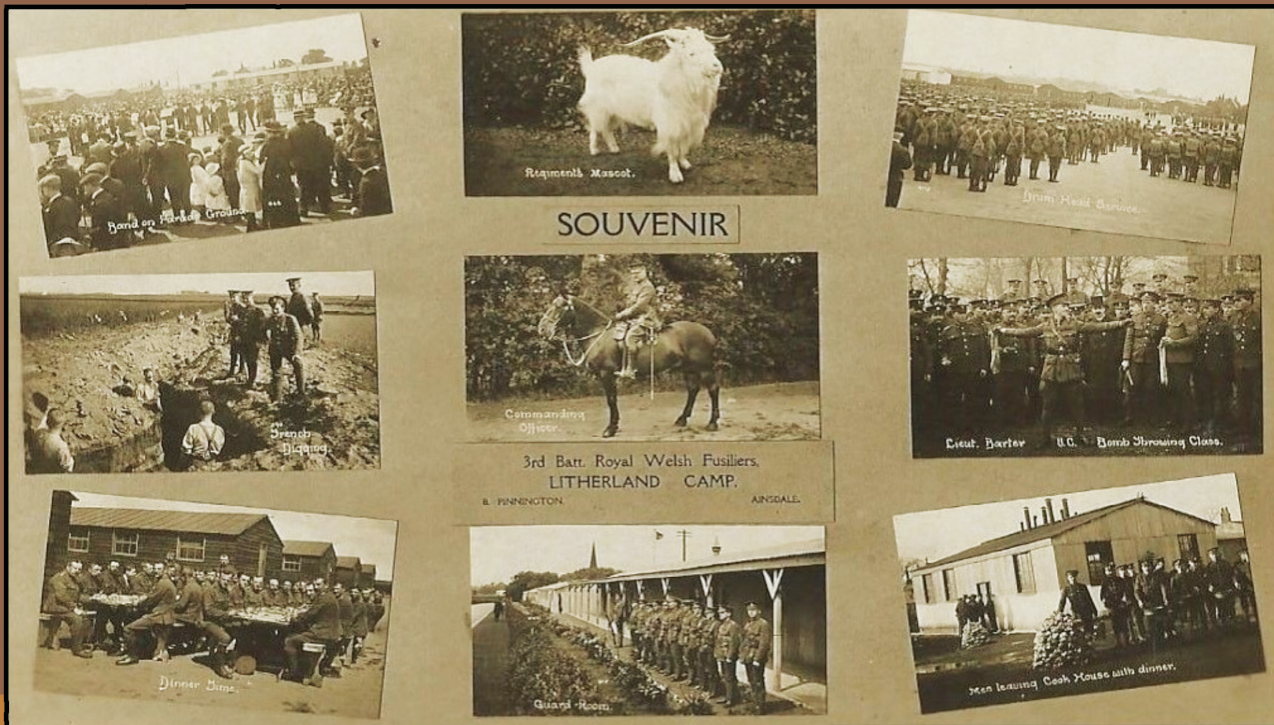
Ellis was the eldest of eleven children.

His younger brother was Robert.

Imagine Ellis wrote a postcard home to Robert.

What would he have said do you think?

Write a postcard as if you were Ellis writing home.



POST CARD.

THIS SPACE MAY BE USED FOR CORRESPONDENCE

THE ADDRESS TO BE WRITTEN HERE

THIS IS A REAL PHOTOGRAPH

France

In June 1917, Ellis joined the 15th Battalion Royal Welsh Fusiliers at a place called Fléchin, in France.

His arrival depressed him. He wrote, "Heavy weather, heavy soul, heavy heart." At Fléchin he finished his National Eisteddfod entry and signed it "**Fleur de Lis**".

It was sent via the Royal Mail on 15 July 1917.

That same day, the 15th Battalion marched towards the Battle of Passchendaele.

Colour me in.



Battle of Passchendaele

Ellis took part in the terrible battle at Passchendaele. It was one of the worst battles of the First World War. During the battle, Ellis was killed.

A WELSH BARD KILLED.

Official information has been received that the well-known bard, Private Ellis H. Evans, Heddwyn Trawsfynydd, has been killed in France. Evans, who was twenty-nine years of age, was one of the most promising Welsh bards, having won five chairs in North and South Wales Eisteddfodau, and was second for the chair at Aberystwyth National Eisteddfod last year. He was amongst the competitors at Birkenhead next week.

Liverpool Echo Tuesday 28th August 1917

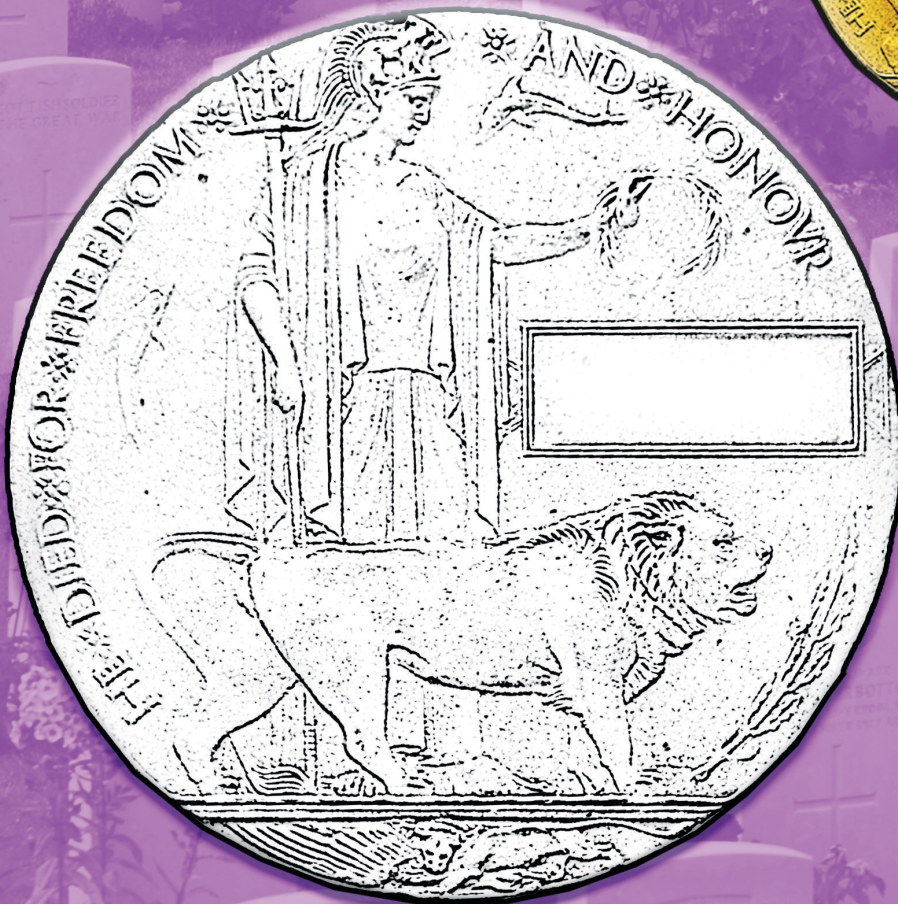




He is buried in Belgium.
He now has a stone cross amongst hundreds of others.
On his headstone the words 'Y Prifardd Hedd Wyn' were added.
300,000 British soldiers died in the Battle of Passchendaele.
A bronze statue of him stands in Trawsfynydd. His name also appears on Trawsfynydd's War Memorial.



Ellis' Death plaque
Write his name on this plaque and colour it in. These were called Dead Man's pennies as they looked like the pennies in the old money. Families got one of these if they lost someone in World War One.



Write an acrostic poem
to remember soldiers who
gave their lives in the wars.

S

O

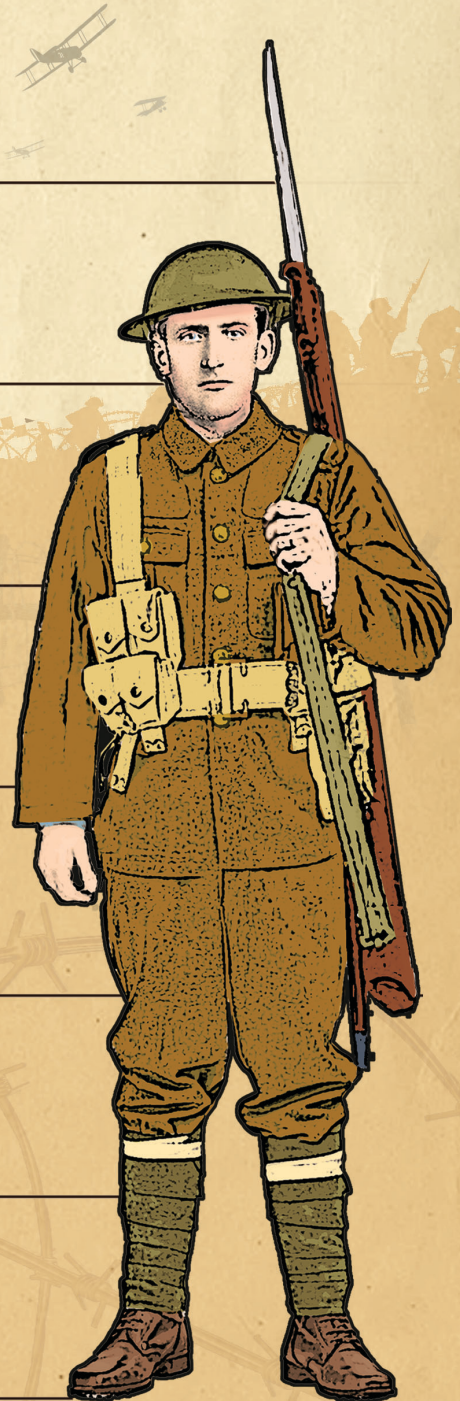
L

D

I

E

R





The National Eisteddfod took place in September 1917.

Ellis' poem won!

It the Chairing of the Bard it was revealed that Fleur de Lys was the winner, but nobody stood up.

It was announced that Ellis had been killed in battle six weeks earlier. The empty chair was draped in a black sheet.

The chair can be seen at Yr Ysgwrn, Ellis' home.

Find photos of the chair on the internet and copy it, draw it or print out and glue it below,

The second incident connected with the main Eisteddfod ceremony of the day was the fact that the winning bard, who should have been chaired for his ode on the character of "The Hero," had, since sending his poem, been killed in France. The year was one, therefore, of what is known as the "black chair," and the ceremony was merely one of draping the bardic chair in black, while the bardic stanzas naturally took the form of elegy on the dead bard—Private Ellis Evans, of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers and of Ysgwin, Trawsfynydd, in Merionethshire. The poet had been prominent in many of the South Wales Eisteddfodau on previous occasions.

