THOMAS EVERY – Private 26862, 4TH Battalion South Wales Borderers

Thomas was one of the 8 children of farm worker Eli Every and his wife Elizabeth, born on October 18 1882. They lived in cottages around Buckland St Mary; when Thomas started school at Buckland in 1893 they were living at Long Lye; when his younger brother Eli started school in 1901 they were at Marlpit Cottage. Later on Thomas and family lived at Meanwood.

Thomas had married Alice Whatley in 1910; at the time of the 1911 Census they were living with his mother in law Elizabeth Whatley at Newtown; both the women were lacemenders. By 1915 they had 2 little girls, Elizabeth and Olive; their first born, William, had died at under a year.



Thomas's Service Records don't survive, so only a sketchy idea of his Army career is possible. A photograph, perhaps a farewell picture, exists of the whole family. Olive is probably less than a year old, which suggests a 1916 date for his calling up. His cap badge appears to be that of the Somerset Light Infantry, but other written records suggest he was (perhaps later) recruited into the South Wales Borderers, we believe the 4th Battalion, given where they were serving - on November 29 1916 the Rector had written to Sam Pym "Tom Every is in Hospital in Mesopotamia".

It seems likely that Thomas joined the Battalion in Egypt early in 1916.

In the 1939 Register of England and Wales Thomas and Alice are living in Meanwood with two of their sons, Jim and Frank.

Thomas didn't enjoy good

health, suffering from rheumatoid arthritis, and died in 1947 aged 64. His youngest daughter, Mary, died only recently in 2017, and many of his descendants live in the area.

South Wales Borderers - 4th (Service) Battalion

"Aug 1914 Formed at Brecon as part of the First New Army (K1) and then moved to Park House camp near Tidworth, joining the 40th Brigade of the 13th Division and then moved to Chisledon. **Dec 1914** Moved to Cirencester and then Woking.

29.06.1915 Embarked for Gallipoli from Avonmouth via Mudros.

15.07.1915 Landed at Gallipoli and engaged in various actions against the Turkish Army including;

The Battle of Sari Bair, The Battle of Russell's Top, The Battle of Hill 60.

08.01.1916 Evacuated from Gallipoli to Egypt due to severe casualties from combat, disease and harsh weather.

30.01.1916 Deployed to Egypt to defend sections of the Suez Canal.

15.02.1916 Embarked for Mesopotamia from Suez arriving at Basra 04.03.1916 **1917**

The Battle of Kut al Amara, The capture of the Hai Salient, The capture of Dahra Bend, The passage of the Diyala, The pursuit of the enemy towards Baghdad, Capture of Baghdad. **1918**

Push north towards Turkey

31.10.1918 Ended the war north of Kirkuk, Mesopotamia."

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Mary Every, Tom's youngest daughter