## CAPTAIN RICHARD LLOYD WILLIAMS 7<sup>TH</sup> BATTALION RWF



Captain Richard Lloyd Williams was fatally injured on 31 July 1917 at the battle of Pilckem Ridge, the opening battle of the 3<sup>rd</sup> battle of Ypres. He died in the 12<sup>th</sup> Casualty Clearing Station on August 2<sup>nd</sup> 1917 aged 29.

He is buried in the Mendingham military cemetery, Proven, but is also commemorated on the family gravestone in Trefriw cemetery. His parents are also buried there – Richard Williams who died 20 February 1919 and Anne who died 15 April 1917 - and his brother,

Jesse Williams, survived the war and received a Distinguished Service Medal. Jesse was a year younger than Richard. He qualified as a barrister in Huby near Leeds and died in 1959. The grandparents' names are on the memorial too. They are Richard and Catherine of Blaen y Nant who are buried in Llanberis. They died in 1872 and 1886.

The Census returns reveal that Richard came from a large, well-to-do farming family who originally lived at Blaen y Nant, near Llyn Crafnant. There were seven children in the family, five boys and two girls.

Richard attended the village school in Trefriw and then the grammar school in Llanrwst. (Eryl Prys Jones: Conwy Wledeg a'r Rhyfil Mawr) See also De Ruvigny's Roll of Honour. He went on to work for the London City and Midland Bank and in the 1911 Census; he was living in Denbigh and working as a bank clerk. His parents had retired from farming at Blaen y Nant and had moved to Welby House, where, at the time of the 1911 Census, Jesse's future brother-in-law, Pensam Thornton, a medical student, was listed as a visitor.

Richard & Jesse were some of the first young men to respond to the Government's appeal for volunteers to fight against Germany, enlisting in the 13<sup>th</sup> Service Battalion, Royal Welsh Fusiliers on 7th November 1914. In February 1915, he was made 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in the 17<sup>th</sup> Battalion and in June the same year, promoted to Lieutenant. On 27<sup>th</sup> November 1915, he was promoted again, this time to Captain. See De

Ruvigny's Roll of Honour In December 1915 He was sent to France as part of the Expeditionary Force. His brother Jesse was a Major. Both were rapidly promoted because, although they came from an ordinary Welsh farming family, they were well-educated and seen as suitable officer material.

According to a family story, Richard received a 'Dear John' letter at the end of July 1917 – the identity of the girlfriend is unknown. Maybe this was on his mind but sadly he was fatally injured a few days later. Richard left £50 in his will to Peniel Chapel in Trefriw and his father donated a set of altar vessels in memory of both Richard and his wife, Anne.

Note: Jesse married in 1915, but was later wounded at Mametz (North Wales Weekly News 20 July 1916). He survived his wounds and had several children, dying in Harrogate in 1959.

Sources: Eryl Prys Jones: Conwy Wledig a'r Rhyfel Mawr

Wales Census: 1891, 1901, 1911

UK, De Ruvigny's Roll of Honour, 1914-1919 Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914-1919

View Record

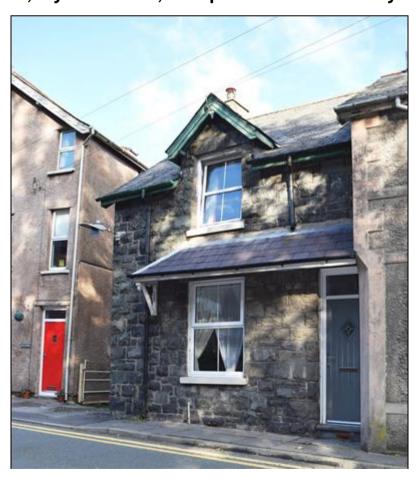
England & Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations), 1858-1966, 1973-1995

WILLIAMS, RICHARD LLOYD, Capt., 17th (Service) Battn. The Royal Welsh Fusiliers, s. of Richard Williams, of Welby Cottage, Trefriw S.O., North Wales, by his late wife, Anne; b. Blaen-y-Nant, Trefriw, co. Carnarvon, 13 Oct. 1887; educ. Llanrwst County School; was a Clerk on the staff of the London City & Midland Bank, Denbigh; enlisted in the 13th (Service) Battn. Royal Welsh Fusiliers 7 Nov. 1914; obtained a commission, and was gazetted 2nd Lieut. 17th Battn. of the same regiment 25 Feb. 1915; promoted Lieut. 30 June, and Capt. 27 Nov. 1915; served with the Expeditionary Force in France and Flanders from 1 Dec. following, and died at No. 12 Casualty Clearing Station, Proven, 2 Aug. 1917, of wounds received in action at Iron Cross, Pilkem, during the Third Battle of Ypres 31 July previously. Buried in the British Military Cemetery, Proven. A Private wrote: "Capt. R. Lloyd Williams had won the confidence of his men, and we would have followed him anywhere." Unm.

Richard Lloyd Williams' entry in De Ruvigny's Roll of Honour, Vol. 4



Blaen Nant, Llyn Crafnant, birthplace of Richard Lloyd Williams



Welby House, former home of Richard Lloyd Williams



Jesse Williams' Wedding Group 1915
Lieut. Pensam Thornton MC R.A.M.C, on left, Mr & Mrs Thornton centre, Eva Thornton & Maj. Jesse Williams seated & Capt. R. Lloyd Williams standing on extreme right,