

Private Harold Thomas Evans, Kings Shropshire Light Infantry,  
of 4 Council Houses, All Stretton

died 10 August 1944 in Normandy, aged 23.

Harold Thomas Evans was born in February 1921 in Church Stretton. Harold was the eldest child of Thomas Evans, a carter and lorry driver, and Gertrude nee Francis who were married in 1919.

Thomas was born in Hope Bowdler, his father worked on a farm, and Gertrude was born in All Stretton, the family lived on The Row and her father worked on the railways.

By the time of the 1921 census the family were living in Church Stretton and Thomas was employed by local builder W. A. Sherratt. The family had moved to the newly built Council Houses in All Stretton by 1930 living at no 2. Harold attended school in Church Stretton and then worked as a gardener at Scotmansfield House on Burway Road in Church Stretton.

By 1939 the family were living in no 4 Council Houses with Harold's younger sister also named Gertrude (born in 1934) and Gertrude senior's younger sister Lucy Francis. Harold was already described as being in the army. He had enlisted in the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion (the Territorial Battalion) of the KSLI with a service number of 4035560. Harold served as a Private Soldier throughout the war.



The 4th Battalion KSLI in Normandy in 1944

The 4<sup>th</sup> battalion landed in Normandy on 14 June 1944 very soon after D Day. The Battalion was involved in heavy fighting throughout June and July of that year and suffered a number of casualties as a result.

In August the Battalion was part of an attack on the German forces near Falaise in Normandy aiming to break through the central Normandy bridgehead.

Harold was killed in action as part of this offensive on 10 August 1944.



Harold Evans' gravestone in St Charles de Percy cemetery

Harold is buried in the St Charles de Percy cemetery in Normandy alongside a number of other soldiers of the KSLI who died in August 1944.

The inscription on Harold's gravestone reads :

4035560 Private  
H T Evans  
The King's  
Shropshire Light Infantry  
10th August 1944 Age 23  
Lost Awhile  
Our Treasured Love  
Gained for ever  
Safe above

He is commemorated on the County's Roll of Honour in St Chad's Church, Shrewsbury and on the Church Stretton War Memorial.

The family remained living at no 4 Council Houses. Thomas Evans died in early 1953. Gertrude and Lucy remained in the house until Gertrude's death in 1984.