

## EVANS, ELLIS HUMPHREY (Hedd Wyn; 1887 - 1917), poet

**Name:** Ellis Humphrey Evans  
**Pseudonym:** Hedd Wyn  
**Date of birth:** 1887  
**Date of death:** 1917  
**Parent:** Mary Evans (née Morris)  
**Parent:** Evan Evans  
**Gender:** Male  
**Occupation:** poet  
**Area of activity:** Eisteddfod; Poetry  
**Author:** William Morris

Born 13 January 1887, the eldest son of Evan and Mary Evans of Yr Ysgwrn, Trawsfynydd, Meirionethshire. He received his education, such as it was, at the elementary school and Sunday school, but his self-education went on unceasingly. His aptitude for poetry became evident at an early age and he was given every encouragement at home, for his father was by way of being a home-spun poet as his maternal grandfather had been. He was given the name Hedd Wyn at a concert held on the banks of Llyn y Morynion. He won the first of his six chairs at Bala in 1907, and his *awdl* on Strata Florida gained him second place at the national eisteddfod at Aberystwyth in 1916. Early in 1917 he enlisted in the 15th battalion, Royal Welch Fusiliers. Before doing so he had already begun his *awdl* 'Yr Arwr,' half of which was written at Trawsfynydd. It was finished in camp at Litherland and was posted from France. When his pseudonym (Fleur-de-lis) was called out at the national eisteddfod at Birkenhead in 6 September 1917, it was announced that he was dead; he had been killed at the battle of Pilkem Ridge, 31 July. A volume of his poems, *Cerddi'r Bugail*, was published in 1918. With the profits of this work, supplemented by subscriptions, a statue (by L. S. Merrifield) was raised to him at Trawsfynydd. A 2nd edition of the *Cerddi* was published in 1931. Hedd Wyn's chief delight was in poetry, and it was by competing that he perfected his craft.

### Author

Reverend William Morris, (1889 - 1979)

### Sources

*Cerddi'r Bugail* (1918)

*Y Geninen*, 1918, 51, (G y l Dewi), 15

*Cymru (O.M.E.)*, 1918, 33

### Further Reading

Robin Gwyndaf, *Cofio Hedd Wyn: Atgofion Cyfeillion a Detholiad o'i Gerddi* (Talybont 2017)

[Hedd Wyn](#), The First World War Education Project, The National Library of Wales and Amgueddfa Cymru-National Museum Wales

Laura Barton, [Hedd Wyn: poetry that echoes from the first world war](#), *The Guardian*, 30 July 2014

[Yr Ysgwrn](#), accessed July 2019

Coflein: [Ysgwrn; Yr Ysgwrn Farmhouse](#)

People's Collection Wales: [Hedd Wyn & Yr Ysgwrn](#)

Wikipedia Article: [Hedd Wyn](#)

### Works

NLW Archives: [NLW MS 4628C: Ellis Humphrey Evans \(Hedd Wyn\): Barddoniaeth 20 cent.](#)

E. Vincent Evans (ed.), [Cofnodion a chyfansoddiadau Eisteddfod Genedlaethol 1917 \(Birkenhead\). Rhan 1, Barddoniaeth \(Caerdydd 1917\)](#)

### Additional Links

VIAF: [18401866](#)

Wikidata: [Q1388537](https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Q1388537)

Published date: 1959

Article Copyright: <http://rightsstatements.org/page/InC/1.0/> 

The Dictionary of Welsh Biography is provided by The National Library of Wales and the University of Wales Centre for Advanced Welsh and Celtic Studies. It is free to use and does not receive grant support. A donation would help us maintain and improve the site so that we can continue to acknowledge Welsh men and women who have made notable contributions to life in Wales and beyond.

Find out more on our [sponsorship page](#).

