





### Edmund Oswald Griffith Williams-Meyrick

Lt Edmund Oswald Griffith Williams-Meyrick, who can be seen in figure 1, was born July 8<sup>th</sup> 1878 in Beaumaris, Anglesey to his father Reverend John W Meyrick, who's occupation was a clerk in the holy order, and his mother Clara S Meyrick. Lt Williams-Meyrick also had a two siblings; Charles L G W Meyrick born in 1882 and Einion S T G W Meyrick born in 1885 (AncestryLibrary 2018). Williams-Meyrick completed his secondary schooling in Friars School, Bangor and then subsequently went on to study at St David's University College, Lampeter (UA/SP/1/10). From this we know that he was ordained as a clerk of the Holy Order but the location is unknown (UA/A18). An interesting thing to note is that William-Meyrick was supposedly part of the Inner Temple (UA/SP/1/10), which is an organization that is dated back to the 12<sup>th</sup> century that allows students to study law in England and Wales (TheInnerTemple n.d.). Although this notion was mentioned in volume 12 of the student magazine, there is no hard evidence to back up this claim.



Figure 1 showing Williams-Meyrick, after WWWMP n.d.

Although there is a vast amount of information that can be obtained from the primary sources in Roderic Bowen Archives, Williams-Meyrick's university life is surprisingly sparse. By looking at the tutor's register we are able to see that Williams-Meyrick's student number was 1998 and was enrolled into the college in January 1899 at the age of 21 (UA/A/18); an age which seems to be later than most students who would normally enrol at the age of 18. The residence book can also give us small insights; we can learn that he was in the halls of residence only in 1900 in the Easter term but did not complete the full number of nights (UA/BUR/23). It should be noted that in order for a student to attain a full BA in their chosen subject, students were required to be in residence for a full 9 terms (D.T.W Price 1990). From this, we might be able to conclude that this student did not get this degree at the end of his academic years. This idea can be supported further by exploring the examination books; no evidence has been located in regards to Williams-Meyrick's exam results or his degree result at the end of his 3<sup>rd</sup> and final year (UA/A/83). Another indication that Williams-Meyrick did not complete his degree can be seen in the 1901 census, which shows that Williams-Meyrick was living in Llandudno with his wife Gwendoline and her family (AncestryLibrary 2018). It is therefore highly likely that Williams-Meyrick did not graduate and therefore did not receive a BA degree.

Although William's-Meyrick university life is somewhat limited, we are able to gain a range of knowledge about his life and experience in World War 1. To being with, Williams-Meyrick joined the Empire Battalion of the Royal Fusiliers and was gazetted to the Royal Welsh Fusiliers in 1914 (UA/SP/1/10). The residence book tell us that Williams-Meyrick fell in battle on May 7th 1916 (UA/BUR/23); this notion can also be seen in the Commonwealth War Graves Commission , which states that Williams-Meyrick was buried in Gibraltar in the Gibraltar North Face Cemetery. One thing to

note about this certain cemetery is that it was used in 1914-1918 for the burial of soldiers who died on ships that were passing Gibraltar (CWGC n.d.). From knowing he was buried in Gibraltar, we might be able to then deduce that he was placed in the 1<sup>st</sup> Garrison Battalion, which was formed in Wrexham in July 1915 and then progressed over to Gibraltar where they remained stationed to see out the rest of WW1 (Longlongtrail n.d.).

William-Meyrick's death was commemorated in a number of ways, one of these is seen in the North Wales Chronicle published Friday 4<sup>th</sup> August, 1914, the same year that he fell in battle (Cyrmu 1914). This newspaper discussed the roll of honour, and Williams-Meyrick was named as one of the "old friar boys" who lost their lives in battle (Cymru 1914). We are also about to see his death, and other who died in the 1<sup>st</sup> World War, in war memorials and images. Figure 2 (Cyrmu 1914A) shows us a war memorial dedicated to those who lost their lives in the war and who also attended the university college in Lampeter, Williams-Meyrick's name can be seen more clearly in figure 4 (Cymru 1914B).



Figure 2 showing war memorial, after Cymru 1914B, n.d.



Figure 3 showing close up of war memorial, after Cymru 1914B, n.d.

## References

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