

# **WALES AND THE WARS OF THE ROSES**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649004492

Wales and the wars of the Roses by Howell T. Evans

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**HOWELL T. EVANS**

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CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

C. F. CLAY, MANAGER

London: FETTER LANE, E.C.

Edinburgh: 100 PRINCES STREET



New York: G. P. PUTNAM'S SONS  
Bombay and Calcutta: MACMILLAN AND Co., LTD.  
Toronto: J. M. DENT AND SONS, LTD.  
Tokyo: THE MARUZEN-KABUSHIKI-KAISHA

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BY

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St John's College, Cambridge

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Cambridge :  
at the University Press  
1915

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**Cambridge:**

PRINTED BY JOHN CLAY, M.A.

AT THE UNIVERSITY PRESS

224

228



## PREFACE

AS its title suggests, the present volume is an attempt to examine the struggle between Lancaster and York from the standpoint of Wales and the Marches. Contemporary chroniclers give us vague and fragmentary reports of what happened there, though supplementary sources of information enable us to piece together a fairly consecutive and intelligible story.

From the first battle of St Albans to the accession of Edward IV the centre of gravity of the military situation was in the Marches: Ludlow was the chief seat of the duke of York, and the vast Mortimer estates in mid-Wales his favourite recruiting ground. It was here that he experienced his first serious reverse—at Ludford Bridge; it was here, too, that his son Edward, earl of March, won his way to the throne—at Mortimer's Cross. Further, Henry Tudor landed at Milford Haven, and with a predominantly Welsh army defeated Richard III at Bosworth. For these reasons alone unique interest attaches to Wales and the Marches in this thirty years' war; and it is to be hoped that the investigation will throw some light on much that has hitherto remained obscure.

I have ventured to use contemporary Welsh poets as authorities; this has made it necessary to include a chapter on their value as historical evidence. It was thought necessary, also, to give some account of the state of things in Wales during the first half of the fifteenth century, and of the part played by Welshmen in the last phases of the Hundred Years' War with France.

I am deeply indebted to Prof. J. E. Lloyd, M.A., of Bangor University, for revising the proofs and for much salutary criticism; and to Mr J. Alban Morris of Cardiff for placing at my disposal his transcript of the manuscript *History of Wales*, by Ellis Griffith, in the Mostyn Library. The index has been compiled mainly by Mr T. L. Horabin of the Board of Trade.

H. T. E.

*January 10, 1915.*

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