



Percy Oldroyd Megson

1886 - 1916

Percy was born in Earlsheaton on 22nd June 1886. His father was Benjamin Oldroyd Megson a traveller in Shoddy and Mungo born in Ossett in 1854 and died in 1922. His mother was Harriet Wild (née Newsome) born in Emley in 1855 and died in 1938. They were married on 17th May 1875.

Their other children were; George Arthur, born in 1875, Joseph, born in 1877 and was killed in action 20th November 1917, Willie, born in 1880, and Jane Oldroyd, born in 1882.

On the 1891 and 1901 Census Records the family lived in Providence Street, Earlsheaton and in 1911 at Cliff Cottage, Long Lane, Earlsheaton.

Percy was a single man who was educated at Earlsheaton Church and Council Schools; he worked as a traveller in rags and a commission agent and was an outstanding and popular batsman for several seasons at Chickenley cricket club. His obituary in the "*Dewsbury Reporter*" made reference to the fact that he was almost totally deaf.

He served as Private 21390 in the 12th (Labour) Battalion Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) which he joined as a reserve in December 1915. He attested into the Regiment on 1st March 1916 and was posted to the Western Front on 1st April. He was killed by shellfire on 6th September 1916 during the Battle of the Somme. He is buried in Bronfay Farm Military Cemetery, Bray-sur-Somme, France. Percy was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

His father received the news of his death in a letter from Captain Richard J. Rooney who praised his "*unfailing good conduct and soldier-like qualities.*"

Bray-sur-Somme is a village 8 kilometres south-east of Albert. Bronfay Farm is 3 kilometres north-east of the village on the road to Maricourt and the Cemetery is on the south-east side of the road opposite the farm. The cemetery was begun by French troops in October 1914, but little used by them. It was used by Commonwealth troops from August 1915 to February 1917, particularly during the Battle of the Somme, when the XIV Corps Main Dressing station was at the farm. During the retreat and advance of 1918, further burials were made and after the Armistice, graves of March, August and September 1918, were brought in from the fields between Bronfay Farm and Bray. Bronfay Farm Military Cemetery contains 537 burials and commemorations of the First World War. 13 of the burials are unidentified but there are special memorials to two casualties believed to be buried among them.

Percy is commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library and on the Earlsheaton Park War Memorial and the Oak Reredos in St Peter's Church, Earlsheaton.

In Memory of

Private

P O Megson

21390, 12th (Labour) Bn., Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) who died on 06 September 1916

Remembered with Honour

Bronfay Farm Military Cemetery, Bray-Sur-Somme



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

