



Percy Senior

1889 – 1917

Percy was born in Thornhill Lees in 1889. His father was Ephraim Senior, a Cloth Percher (one who inspected the finished cloth), born in Selkirk, Scotland in 1847 and died in 1906. His mother was Elizabeth (nee Page) born in Batley in 1848 and died in 1924. They were married in 1866.

Their other children were; Frances Hannah, born in Hanging Heaton in 1866, Mary Ann, born in Hanging Heaton in 1868 and died in 1879, Brook, born in Batley Carr in 1870 and died in 1871, Harry, born in Batley Carr in 1873, Louisa, born in Batley in 1875 and died in 1886, Alice, born in Batley in 1879 and died in 1880 and Florence, born in Thornhill Lees in 1887.

On the 1901 Census the family were living at 47, Thornton Street, Thornhill Lees, in 1911 Percy is living with his widowed mother at 441, Lees Hall Road, Thornhill Lees. His occupation was recorded as a farm labourer. He was married on 8th April 1912 at Holy Innocents Church, Thornhill Lees to Alice Thornton (born in Doncaster in 1886) they lived at 25, Cooperative Buildings, Brewery Lane, Thornhill Lees. Alice was remarried in 1919 to Albert Schofield and later lived at 37, Cooperative Buildings.

He served as Private 201222 in the 4th Battalion Essex Regiment having previously served as Private 20994 in the Bedfordshire Regiment. He was posted to serve in the Palestine Campaign and was killed in action on the 2nd day of the First Battle of Gaza on 27th March 1917. His remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Jerusalem Memorial, Israel. Percy was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

The Jerusalem Memorial stands in Jerusalem War Cemetery, 4.5 kilometres north of the walled city and is situated on the neck of land at the north end of the Mount of Olives, to the west of Mount Scopus. At the outbreak of the First World War, Palestine was part of the Turkish Empire and it was not entered by Allied forces until December 1916. The advance to Jerusalem took a further year. By 21st November 1917, the Egyptian Expeditionary Force had gained a line about five kilometres west of Jerusalem, but the city was deliberately spared bombardment and direct attack. Very severe fighting followed, lasting until the evening of 8th December, when the 53rd (Welsh) Division on the south, and the 60th (London) and 74th (Yeomanry) Divisions on the west, had captured all the city's prepared defences. Turkish forces left Jerusalem throughout that night and in the morning of 9th December, the Mayor came to the Allied lines with the Turkish Governor's letter of surrender. Jerusalem was occupied that day and on 11th December 1917, General Allenby formally entered the city, followed by representatives of France and Italy. The Jerusalem Memorial commemorates 3,300 Commonwealth servicemen who died during the First World War in operations in Egypt or Palestine and who have no known grave.

Percy is also commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library and on the War Memorial in Holy Innocents Parish Church, Thornhill Lees and on the Thornhill Lees Wesleyan Methodist Church Memorial Plaque relocated to Longcauseway Church, Dewsbury.

In Memory of

Private

Percy Senior

201222, 4th Bn., Essex Regiment who died on 27 March 1917 Age 27

Son of Elizabeth Senior, of 441, Lee's Hall Rd., Thornhill Lees, and the late Ephraim Senior; husband of Alice Schofield (formerly Senior), of 37, Co-op Buildings, Brewery Lane, Thornhill Lees, Dewsbury.

Remembered with Honour

Jerusalem Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

