



## **Percy Exley**

### **1882 – 1917**

Percy was born in Earlsheaton in 1882. His father was George Fawcett Exley, A Foreman in a printing works born in Earlsheaton in 1852 and died in 1916. His mother was Harriett (nee Field) born in Dewsbury in 1855 and died in 1940. They were married in 1875.

Their other children were; Annie, born in 1876, Albert, born in 1878, Walter, born in 1880, George, born in 1884, Ernest, born in 1887 and died in 1888, Frank, born in 1889, Arthur, born in 1892, Winnifred, born in 1894, Fred, born in 1895, Reginald, born in 1897 and died in 1897.

On the 1891 Census the family lived at New Bank, Earlsheaton, in 1901 at 2, Springfield View, Dewsbury and in 1911 at 36, Ashworth Road, Dewsbury.

Percy married Laura Houseman (born in 1882 and died in 1950) on 14<sup>th</sup> October 1909 at the Primitive Methodist Church, Healey Lane, Batley. He captained the Dewsbury Tuesday Football Club and before enlisting had been a Tailor's Cutter and Manager and had worked at the Dewsbury Pioneers before going to work for the Harrogate Cooperative Society. They lived at 30, Skipton Street, Harrogate and had a son, Clifford, born in 1911.

He enlisted in Harrogate serving as Private 39449 in the 11<sup>th</sup> Battalion West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own) and was sent to the Western Front around March 1917, he died of wounds sustained during the Battle of Passchendaele on 21<sup>st</sup> September 1917 in a Casualty Clearing Station at Remy Siding and is buried in Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Percy was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

During the First World War, the village of Lijssenthoek was situated on the main communication line between the Allied military bases in the rear and the Ypres battlefields. Close to the Front, but out of the extreme range of most German field artillery, it became a natural place to establish casualty clearing stations. The cemetery was first used by the French 15<sup>th</sup> Hopital D'Evacuation and in June 1915, it began to be used by casualty clearing stations of the Commonwealth forces. From April to August 1918, the casualty clearing stations fell back before the German advance and field ambulances (including a French ambulance) took their places. The cemetery contains 9,901 Commonwealth burials of the First World War, 24 being unidentified.

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 Memorial Plaque in the Dewsbury Ebenezer Congregational Church, now known as Longcauseway Church (United Reformed and Methodist).

In Memory of  
Private  
**Percy Exley**

39449, 11th Bn., West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own) who died on 21 September 1917 Age  
34

Husband of Laura Exley, of 30, Skipton St., Harrogate.

Remembered with Honour  
**Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery**



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Headstone photograph by courtesy of Ms. Danielle Roubroeks, Antwerp, Belgium.