



Percy Lawton

1899-1918

Percy was born in Earlsheaton on 26th June 1899 and baptised at St. Peter's Church, Earlsheaton on 9th August 1899. His father was John William Lawton, a Card Cleaner in a woollen blanket mill born in Earlsheaton in 1857 and died in 1922. His mother was Phoebe (nee Exley) born in Earlsheaton in 1860 and died in 1940. They were married on 4th April 1885 at St. Peter's Church.

Their other children were; Amelia (Milly) born in 1885, George, born in 1887 and served in World War 1, Albert, born in 1889, Alfred, born in 1891, Clifford, born in 1897 and also served in World War 1, Annie, born in 1898 and died in 1898 and Mary Annie, born in 1902.

On the 1891, 1901 and 1911 Census Records the family lived at 5, Syke Ing Terrace, Earlsheaton.

Percy was educated at Earlsheaton Council School and was a teacher at Chickenley Wesleyan Sunday school; he worked at Messrs Mark Oldroyd and Sons, woollen manufacturers, Spinkwell Mills, and was engaged to Miss Edith Parkin, also of Syke Ing Terrace.

He enlisted in Dewsbury on 26th July 1917 serving as Private 41609 in 'E' Company 9th Battalion Norfolk Regiment and was sent to the Western Front in June 1918. He died of wounds near Caulincourt, France on 20th September 1918, having gone up the line three days before; a Huddersfield soldier wrote that he had been wounded in three places. He was buried in Trefcon British Cemetery, Caulincourt, Aisne, France. Percy was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Trefcon and Caulaincourt are two villages about 14 kilometres west of Saint-Quentin on the south side of the main Amiens to Saint-Quentin road. On the 22nd March 1918 Caulaincourt and Trefcon was captured by the Germans, in spite of a stout defence by the 50th (Northumbrian) Division. The villages were regained by British troops in September 1918. The cemetery was made by the IX Corps (6th and 32nd Divisions) in September 1918, and was called at that time Caulaincourt Military Cemetery. There are now nearly 300 burials of the First World War, of over 10 are 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 Earlsheaton Park War Memorial and on the Oak Reredos in St. Peter's Church Earlsheaton and on the War Memorial in Chickenley Wesleyan Methodist Chapel Memorial on Short Street which was demolished in March 1971. It is not known whether the Memorial survived.

In Memory of

Private

Percy Lawton

41609, "E" Coy. 9th Bn., Norfolk Regiment who died on 20 September 1918 Age 19

Son of John William and Phoebe Lawton, of 5, Syke Ing Terrace, Earlsheaton, Dewsbury, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour

Trefcon British Cemetery, Caulaincourt



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

