



Percy Johnson

1890 – 1917

Percy was born in Earlsheaton in 1890. His father was Arthur Johnson, a glass blower born in Thornhill Lees in 1867 and died in 1927. His mother was Elizabeth Anne (nee Lee) born in Earlsheaton in 1867 and died in 1898. They were married at St. Peter's Church, Earlsheaton on 24th December 1888.

Their other children were; George, born in 1889 and died in 1891, Willie, born in 1892, Hilda, born in 1894 and died in 1897, Harry, born in 1896 and was killed in action 27th March 1918 and Elizabeth, born in 1898.

On the 1891 Census Arthur, Elizabeth and Percy were living with her father John Lee at 68, Church Hill, Earlsheaton.

Arthur was remarried on 12th March 1900 to Sarah Ann Ramsden (born in 1864 and died in 1936) at Holy Innocents Church, Thornhill Lees; they had a daughter Hilda, born in 1902.

In 1901 they lived at 81, Navigation Street, Thornhill Lees, Dewsbury and in 1911 at 11, Bank Road, Thornhill Lees and later at 12, Cardigan Road, Thornhill Lees.

Percy was a single man who was educated at Thornhill Lees Church School and was a member of the Wesleyan Methodist Church, Thornhill Lees. He worked as a mill hand for Messrs Fenton and Bradley, Savile Town. He was described as a lifelong teetotaler and non-smoker.

He enlisted in the 1st/5th Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) serving as Private 241315. He was killed in action by a shell landing on his dugout on 27th November 1917 in the aftermath of the Battle of Passchendaele, his remains were found in 1921 and he is now buried in Ypres Reservoir Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Percy was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

In the town centre of Ypres, three cemeteries were made near the western gate: two between the prison and the reservoir, both now removed into the third, on the north side of the prison. The third was called at first the "Cemetery North of the Prison," later "Ypres Reservoir North Cemetery, and now Ypres Reservoir Cemetery. This cemetery was begun in October 1915 and used by fighting units and field ambulances until after the Armistice when it contained 1,099 graves. The cemetery was later enlarged when more graves were brought in from the battlefields of the salient and smaller burial grounds. There are now 2,613 Commonwealth servicemen of the First World War buried or commemorated in the cemetery. 1,034 of the burials 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 War Memorial in Holy Innocents Church, Thornhill Lees and on the Thornhill Lees Wesleyan Methodist Church Memorial Plaque relocated to Longcauseway Church, Dewsbury.

In Memory of
Private
Percy Johnson

241315, 1st/5th Bn., Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) who died on 27 November 1917 Age 27

Son of Arthur Johnson, of 23, Bank Rd., Thornhill Lees, Dewsbury, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour
Ypres Reservoir Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Headstone photograph by courtesy of Tony Emptage.