



## Percy Chalk

### 1896 – 1917

Percy was born in Westtown, Dewsbury in 1896. His father was John Henry Chalk, a Carpet Weaver born in St. George East, Middlesex in 1858 and died in 1909. His mother was Ann (nee Beever) born in Dewsbury in 1867 and died in 1933. They were married at St. John the Evangelist Church, Dewsbury Moor on 25<sup>th</sup> December 1883.

Their other children were; Eliza, born in 1884 and died in 1884, Fred, born in 1886 and served in World War 1, Lilian, born in 1890 and died in 1891, Annie, born in 1893, Arthur, born in 1900 and died in 1900 and Bertha, born in 1901.

In 1891 they lived at 62, Watergate, Westtown, in 1901 at 24, Senior Street, Westtown, in 1911 at 15, Whitworth Road, Westtown and later at 32, Watergate, Westtown.

Ann was remarried in 1931 to Willie Blakeley (born in 1875 and died in 1941).

Percy was a single man who was educated at St. Matthew's Day School in Westtown and attended the Church and Sunday school; he was also was a member of the Ebenezer Boys' Brigade. He worked at Messrs Kilner Brothers Glass Works in Thornhill Lees.

He joined the army as a Territorial in March 1914 and was mobilised at the outbreak of war, serving as Private 200326 in the 1<sup>st</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry. He was not sent to the Western Front until May 1916. He suffered gas poisoning on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 1917 when the enemy were inflicting a sustained bombardment of Mustard Gas on the Belgian coast around Nieuport. He died in No 1 Casualty Clearing Station at Adinkerke on 26<sup>th</sup> July 1917 and was buried in Coxyde Military Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Percy was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal and the Territorial Force War Medal.

Coxyde Military Cemetery is located approximately 500 metres beyond the village of Koksijde on the road towards De Panne. In June 1917, Commonwealth forces relieved French forces on 6 kilometres of front line from the sea to a point south of Nieuport (now Nieuwpoort), and held this sector for six months. Coxyde (now Koksijde) was about 10 kilometres behind the front line. The village was used for rest billets and was occasionally shelled, but the cemetery, which had been started by French troops, was found to be reasonably safe. It became the most important of the Commonwealth cemeteries on the Belgian coast and was used at night for the burial of the dead brought back from the front line. The cemetery now contains 1,507 Commonwealth burials of the First World War.

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 the porch of the now closed St. Matthew's Church, Westtown.

Due to some error when the Cenotaph and Roll of Honour were inaugurated in 1923/24, Percy is recorded twice. Once under his correct name but also as "*Percy Clark*". He is one of 7 men whose names appear twice on the Roll of Honour and on the Cenotaph.

Chalk Percy.	32. Watergate, Dewsbury.	Pte. 200326. 1/4. K.O.Y.L.I.	Died of Gas poisoning. 26.7.17.
Clark Percy.		Pte. 200326. 1/4. K.O.Y.L.I.	Died of Gas poisoning. 26.7.17.

In Memory of  
Private  
**Percy Chalk**

200326, 1st/4th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 26 July 1917 Age 20

Son of Mrs. Chalk, of 32, Watergate, West Town, Dewsbury.

Remembered with Honour  
**Coxsde Military Cemetery**



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

