



Percy Summerscales

1897 - 1917

Percy was born in Cleckheaton on 25th March 1897. His father was John William Summerscales, a gardener born in Netherton near Wakefield in 1867 and died in 1928. His mother was Eliza (nee Hampshire) born in Netherton in 1866 and died in 1938. They were married at St. Michael and All Angels Church, Thornhill on 25th June 1887.

Their other children were; Alice, born in 1887, Arthur, born in 1889 and died in 1890, Harry, born in 1891 and Willie, born in 1895. Both Harry and Willie served in World War 1.

On the 1901 Census the family lived at Springfield Cottage, Heaton Street, Cleckheaton and in 1911 at "The Lodge" Lees House, Dewsbury where his father John was the Head Gardener.

Percy was a single man who was educated at Thornhill Lees Church School and was connected to Salem United Methodist Church and Sunday school in Northgate, Dewsbury. He worked as a piecer in the blanket mill of Messrs Samuel Firth and Company, Hebble Mills, Thornhill Lees.

He served as Gunner 134874 in the 46th Battery, 39th Brigade of the Royal Field Artillery, enlisting in April 1916 and was sent to the Western Front in the September of that same year. He suffered wounds to the head, right arm and thigh during the Battle of Passchendaele and was taken to a Casualty Clearing Station at Zuydcoote on the French coast but died on 3rd October 1917, he was buried in Zuydcoote Military Cemetery, Nord, France. Percy was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Zuydcoote is a village in the Department of the Nord about 10 kilometres north-east of Dunkirk. The Military Cemetery is west of the village and about 550 metres east of Zuydcoote Halte. In the autumn of 1917, while the XV Corps was holding the Nieuport section, the 34th and 36th Casualty Clearing Stations were posted at Zuydcoote. The Military Cemetery contains, for the most part, the graves of officers and men who died in these hospitals. There are now 326 First World War Casualties commemorated in this site.

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 Parish Church, Thornhill Lees and on the Memorial Plaque from the Salem United Methodist Church, Dewsbury, now stored in the Resource Centre at Batley Central Methodist Church and on the Thornhill Lees Wesleyan Methodist Church Memorial Plaque relocated to Longcauseway Church, Dewsbury.

In Memory of

Gunner

Percy Summerscales

134874, 46th Bty. 39th Bde., Royal Field Artillery who died on 03 October 1917 Age 20

Son of John and Eliza Summerscales, of The Lodge, Lees House, Dewsbury.

Remembered with Honour

Zuydcoote Military Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Headstone photograph by courtesy of Tony Emptage.