



## **Percy Walker**

### **1884 – 1915**

Percy was born in Gee Cross near Hyde, Cheshire in 1884. His father was Joseph Walker, born in Leeds around 1849 and who had a variety of occupations, in 1881 an engineer at a hat works, in 1891 an engine tender, in 1901 a corn miller and in 1911 a rubber heel manufacturer. His mother was Jane Ann (nee Bibby) born in Hyde in 1856. They were married at St. Pauls Church, Stalybridge in 1877.

Their other children were; John Edwin, born in Hyde in 1878, Harry, born in 1880 and died in 1881, Raymond, born in Mottram, Cheshire in 1887, Sidney, born in Stalybridge, Cheshire in 1891 and Joseph Wright, born in Stalybridge in 1893.

On the 1881 Census the family lived at Acorn Lane, Werneth near Stockport, in 1891 at 3, Higher Tame Street, Stalybridge and in 1901 and 1911 at 13, Knowl Street, Stalybridge.

Percy had served in the Royal Marine Light Infantry from 26<sup>th</sup> July 1904 to 27<sup>th</sup> July 1910, and a further 4 years in the Reserves with the Service Number B/734. He was married in Plymouth on 20<sup>th</sup> April 1909 to Sarah Elizabeth Worth, known as Bessie (born in Barrow-in-Furness in 1887 and died in 1966) They had two children; Doris Mildred Maud, born in Plymouth in 1909 and Marjorie May, born in Dewsbury in 1911. On the 1911 Census they are living at 32, Nowell Walk, Harehills, Leeds, at the time of Percy's death, Sarah was living at 3, Clarence Terrace, Savile Town, Dewsbury. Prior to the outbreak of war, he was working as a Motor Wagon Driver for the Lancashire and North Western Railway Company at a goods station. Sarah was remarried on 8<sup>th</sup> May 1916 to an Arthur Benson (born in 1882 and died in 1963) they had three children.

He attested immediately on the outbreak of war on 4<sup>th</sup> August 1914, joining HMS "*Goliath*" at Plymouth serving as Private PLY/12985 in the Royal Marine Light Infantry. The ship was torpedoed during the Gallipoli Campaign off Morto Bay in the Dardanelles on 12<sup>th</sup> May 1915, although his death is recorded as 13<sup>th</sup> May 1915. 570 men went down with the ship and his name was not listed as one of the survivors. He is commemorated on the Plymouth Naval Memorial, Devon. Percy was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

The Plymouth Naval Memorial commemorates more than 7,200 sailors of the First World War. More than a quarter of the men commemorated at Plymouth were lost at The Battle of Jutland which began on 31<sup>st</sup> May 1916.

Percy is also 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 from the now demolished St. Mary's Church, Savile Town now relocated to Holy Innocents Church, Thornhill Leeds.

In Memory of

Private

**Percy Walker**

PLY/12985, (RMR/B/734). H.M.S. "Goliath.", Royal Marine Light Infantry who died on 13 May 1915

Son of Joseph Walker, of Hyde, Cheshire, and the late Mrs. Walker; husband of S. E. Walker, of 3, Clarence Terrace, Savile Town, Dewsbury.

Remembered with Honour

**Plymouth Naval Memorial**



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

