



Arthur Percival Gibson 1882 – 1917

Arthur Percival, known as Percy to his family and friends was born in Holmfirth near Huddersfield on 22nd February 1882 and baptised at St Saviour's Church, Ravensthorpe on 14th May 1882. His father was Edward Fisher Gibson, a Foreman Dyer born in Littleton, Liversedge in 1854 and died in 1927. His mother was Abigail Eliza (nee Lumb) born in Whitley in 1855 and died in 1897. They were married on 15th April 1876 at St Saviour's Church.

Their other children were; Joseph, born in 1877, Edward Clifford, born in 1879, Willie Fisher, born in 1884 and Alice Ellen, born in 1886.

Edward was remarried in 1898 to Sarah Walker (born in 1868 and died in 1947). They had three children; Henry Fisher, born in 1899, Doris May, born in 1901 and Kathleen Gibson, born in 1910.

In 1881 the family lived at Tanhouse Street, Ravensthorpe, in 1891 at North Park Street, Dewsbury, in 1901 at Carlton House, Earlsheaton and in 1911 at Anroyd Street, Westborough, Dewsbury.

Arthur Percival was educated at St. John's School, Dewsbury Moor. He worked as a dyer at Hepworth and Haley's Dyehouse, where his father was Head Dyer. He was married in 1906 to Lena Marshall (born in 1887 and died in 1939). Their children were; Esther Alice, born in 1906 and died in 1912, Louie, born in 1907, Harry, born in 1909, Charles Edward, born in 1912 and Ellen, born in 1915. They lived at 158, Low Road, Earlsheaton. Lena was remarried in 1921 to Ernest Taylor (born in 1890 and died in 1940) they had a daughter, May, born in 1921.

He attested in Pontefract on 9th August 1915 serving as Private 25238 in the 11th Battalion of the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry and was later transferred to the 1st Battalion East Yorkshire Regiment serving as Private 35215. He was wounded in five places on 1st July 1916, the First Day of the Battle of the Somme; he recovered after four months and returned to the Front, where he was killed in action on 11th May 1917 during the Battle of Arras. His father had written to Lieutenant E.H. Ward, for whom Arthur was a runner asking for particulars of his son's death, he received the following reply; *"On the morning of May 11th we were shelled rather heavily and your son came back to ask if he could do anything for me. As he asked a shell burst, and a piece of shrapnel pierced his right breast and passed through his chest, out at the left side. He fell down, and when we lifted him up he was dead. He could have taken cover instead of coming to me thus showing his keen sense of duty"*. He was buried in Boyelles Communal Cemetery Extension, Pas-de-Calais, France. Arthur was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Boyelles is a village about 11 kilometres south of Arras on the main road to Bapaume. Boyelles Communal Cemetery contains 142 Commonwealth burials of the First World War, five of which are unidentified.

Arthur Percival 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 Earlsheaton Park and on the Oak Reredos in St. Peter's Church, Earlsheaton and as *Percy Gibson* on the War Memorial in St. John the Evangelist Church, Dewsbury Moor.

In Memory of

Private

A P Gibson

35215, 1st Bn., East Yorkshire Regiment who died on 11 May 1917

Husband of L. Gibson, of 158, Low Rd., Earlsheaton, Dewsbury.

Remembered with Honour

Boyelles Communal Cemetery Extension



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Headstone photograph by courtesy of Richard Houghton.