



Percy Minnett

1897 – 1916

Percy was born in Halifax in 1897. His father was William Joseph Minnett, a Gardener and later a Fruiterer and Greengrocer born in Wetherby in 1865 and died in 1950. His mother was Alice Ann (née Sutcliffe) born in Greetland near Halifax in 1865 died in 1906. They were married in St. John the Baptist Parish Church, Halifax on 31st January 1885. On the marriage certificate his name was stated as William.

Their other children were; Mary Ethel, born in 1885 and died in 1940, Herbert Sutcliffe, born in 1886 and died in 1940, he served in World War 1, Edmund Williams, born in 1888 and died in 1889, Florence May, born in 1890 and died in 1967, Edith Maud, born in 1893 and died in 1906, Bernard Samuel, born in 1895 and died in 1924, Doris Muriel, born in 1900 and died in 1985 and Mabel, born in 1903 and died in 1982.

On the 1891 Census the family lived at 5, Mary Street, Skircoat Green, Halifax, in 1901 at 5, Free School Lane, Salterhebble, Halifax, in 1911 William had his own business as a fruiterer, gardener and greengrocer, they lived at 1, Knowles Hill Road, Dewsbury Moor. William was remarried in 1913 to Florence Thompson (born in 1878 and died in 1958), They lived at 12, Staincliffe Road, Dewsbury Moor.

Percy was a single man and was associated with Westborough United Methodist Church and Sunday school; he worked as a Cotton Piecener.

He enlisted as Private 1608 in the 12th Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry in August 1915 and was subsequently transferred to the 6th Battalion East Lancashire Regiment serving as Private 22479. Around the beginning of June 1916, he went out to Mesopotamia. After only six weeks there he was admitted to No 3, British General Hospital in Basra. His father received the news that he was dangerously ill via a telegram in July. Within days he received a further communication, informing him of his son's death on 8th July 1916 as a result of the effects of heat. He was buried in Basra War Cemetery, Mesopotamia (now Iraq). Percy was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal, but it appears the medals were either returned or unclaimed by the family and sadly they were broken up.

Basra War Cemetery now contains 2,560 burials of the First World War; in 1935 it was decided to remove all the headstones as the salty soil had caused them to substantially deteriorate. Instead, all the Commonwealth casualties were commemorated on a Memorial Screen Wall which was built in the same year. Because of the current political instability in Iraq, the cemetery is inaccessible. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission has a Roll of Honour commemorating all casualties buried and commemorated in Iraq at their Head Office in Maidenhead.

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 St. John the Evangelist Church, Dewsbury Moor and on the War Memorial in Westborough United Methodist Church.

In Memory of

Private

P Minnett

22479, 6th Bn., East Lancashire Regiment who died on 08 July 1916

Remembered with Honour

Basra War Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission