

Percy John Mallinson 1883-1918

Percy was born in Dewsbury on 17th January 1883 and baptised at St. Philip's Church, Leeds Road, Dewsbury on 5th March 1883. His father was James Mallinson, a Stone Mason born in Kirkburton near Huddersfield in 1851 and died in 1895. His mother was Lucy (nee Swallow) born in Almondbury, Huddersfield in 1855 and died in 1934. They were married in 1878.

Their other children were: Minnie, born in 1879, George Crossland, born in 1880 and died in 1882, Mary Eliza, born in 1884, Ewart Knight, born in 1886 and died in 1887, Elsie May, born in 1890, Martha Eveline, born in 1892 and died in 1897 and Charles Edgar Knight, born in 1894 and died in 1895.

On the 1891 and 1901 Census Records the family lived at 4, Cross Bank Street, Dewsbury, in 1911 at 20, Manor Street, Dewsbury and later at Upper Camroyd Street, Dewsbury.

Percy was a single man and worked as a Conductor and later a Driver for the Yorkshire Woollen District Electric Tramways Ltd.

He enlisted as a reservist in December 1915 and was mobilised at Pontefract on 17th November 1916 in the 13th Battalion York and Lancaster Regiment serving as Private 38855 and was sent to the Western Front landing at Etaples on 10th February 1917 and came home on leave the following February 1918 from the 8th to the 22nd. He was killed in action in France on 24th March 1918 during the German Spring Offensive (*Der Kaiserschlacht*). His remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Arras Memorial to the Missing. A letter to his parents from the Regimental Chaplain, the Reverend John Calderbank informed them that he was killed by the explosion of a shell. Percy was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

The Arras Memorial commemorates almost 35,000 servicemen from the United Kingdom, South Africa and New Zealand who died in the Arras sector between the spring of 1916 and 7th August 1918, the eve of the Advance to Victory, and have no known grave. The most conspicuous events of this period were the Arras offensive of April-May 1917, and the German attack in the spring of 1918.

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 in the now demolished St. Philip's Church, Leeds Road now displayed in Dewsbury Minster and as *Percy Mallinson* on the War Memorial on the outside wall of Dewsbury Baptist Church.



