



Percy Senior

1894 – 1916

Percy was born in Earlsheaton on 20th May 1894 and was baptised at St Peter's Church, Earlsheaton on 29th June 1894. His father was Harvey Senior, a waste dealer born in Dewsbury 1854 and died in 1935. His mother was Emma (née Lobley) born in Dewsbury in 1860 and died in 1926. They were married in 1885.

Their other children were Harold, born in 1885, Thomas Edward, born in 1887, Mary Milner, born in 1889 and died 1890 and Freddy, born in 1894.

On the 1901 Census the family lived in Town Street, Earlsheaton and in 1911 at St. Peter's Terrace, Earlsheaton.

Percy was a single man who was educated at Earlsheaton Church of England School. He worked as a piecer in the textile mill of Messrs Mark Oldroyd and Sons at Spinkwell Mills, Dewsbury.

He attested in April 1916 serving as Private 37660 in the 9th Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry and was sent to the Western Front in July and was killed in action during the Battle of the Somme in the Battle of Flers-Courcelette on 16th September 1916. His remains were not found until 1920 and he was reburied in A.I.F. Burial Ground, Flers, Somme, France. Percy was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Flers was captured on 15th September 1916, in the Battle of Flers-Courcelette, when it was entered by the New Zealand and 41st Divisions behind tanks, the innovative new weapons that were used here for the first time. The village was lost during the German advance of March 1918 and retaken at the end of the following August by the 10th West Yorks and the 6th Dorsets of the 17th Division. The cemetery was begun by Australian medical units, posted in the neighbouring caves, in November 1916-February 1917. It was very greatly enlarged after the Armistice when almost 4,000 Commonwealth and French graves were brought in from the battlefields of the Somme, and later from a wider area. There are now 3,475 Commonwealth servicemen of the First World War buried or commemorated in this cemetery. 2,263 of the burials are unidentified and there are special memorials to 23 casualties known or believed to be buried among them.

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 Earlsheaton Park War Memorial and on the Oak Reredos in St Peter's Church.

In Memory of
Private
P Senior

37660, 9th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 16 September 1916

Remembered with Honour
A.I.F. Burial Ground, Flanders



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Headstone photograph by courtesy of Phil Bournier.