



## **Percy Bennett**

### **1893 - 1917**

Percy was born in Ravensthorpe on 27<sup>th</sup> August 1893 and baptised at St. Saviour's Church, Ravensthorpe on 19<sup>th</sup> October 1893. His father was Albert Bennett, a night-watchman and later a boiler firer born in Ravensthorpe in 1863 and died in 1937. His mother was Mary Ann (nee Mellor) born in Ravensthorpe in 1867 and died in 1932. They were married at St. Saviour's Church on 2<sup>nd</sup> August 1888.

Their other children were; George, born in 1892, John Albert, born in 1894, Clifford, born in 1897, Archie Mellor, born in 1900 and died in 1901, May, born in 1902 and died in 1902. George, John and Clifford all served in World War 1.

On the 1901 Census the family lived at Aire Street, Ravensthorpe and in 1911 at Pond Street, Ravensthorpe; they later moved to live at 25, Grange Terrace, Churwell near Leeds.

Percy was educated at St. Saviour's Boys School and attended the Church. He worked as a spinner at the woollen mills of Messrs Marshall, Kaye and Marshall in Ravensthorpe. He was married to Lillian Margaret Whitehead of 38, Crawshaw Street, Ravensthorpe (born in Saddleworth, Yorkshire in 1897 and died in 1953) at St. Saviour's Church on 13<sup>th</sup> October 1917 whilst home on leave. Lillian was remarried in 1921 to Albert Stephenson (born in 1893 and died in 1944). They had two children.

He enlisted on 26<sup>th</sup> July 1917 into the 2<sup>nd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry serving as Private 47410. He was killed in action on 20<sup>th</sup> November 1917, the First Day of the Battle of Cambrai. He was buried in Havrincourt Wood British Cemetery, about 1 kilometre South-West of Havrincourt village. In December 1920 he was one of 70 men who were reburied in Hermies Hill British Cemetery, Pas-de-Calais, France. Percy was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Hermies is a town in the Department of the Pas-de-Calais, approximately 3.5 kilometres south of the road from Bapaume to Cambrai. Hermies was seized on the morning of 9<sup>th</sup> April 1917, by a surprise attack of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Australian Infantry Battalions. It was held against the advancing Germans on the 22<sup>nd</sup> March 1918 by the 17<sup>th</sup> Division, but evacuated on the following day; it was retaken in September 1918. Hermies Hill British Cemetery was begun in November 1917 and carried on by fighting units until March 1918. Further graves were added in the following September and after the Armistice by the concentration of graves from a wide area round Hermies and from certain smaller cemeteries. There are now over 1,000, 1914-18 war casualties commemorated in this site. Of these, nearly 300 are unidentified.

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 Ravensthorpe War Memorial in St. Saviour's Church and on the War Memorial in Ravensthorpe United Methodist Church.

In Memory of  
Private  
**Percy Bennett**

47410, 2nd/4th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 20 November 1917 Age 24

Son of Albert and Mary Alice Bennett, of 25, Grange Terrace, Churwell, Leeds; husband of Lillian M. Stephenson (formerly Bennett), of 55, Garden Terrace, Ravensthorpe, Dewsbury.

Remembered with Honour  
**Hermies Hill British Cemetery**



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Headstone photograph by courtesy of Richard Houghton.