Percy Archer







Rank: - Private

Number: - 63753

Regiment: - Lancashire Fusiliers 15th Battalion

(Formerly 39843 East Yorkshire Regiment)

Killed in Action: - 30th September 1918 aged 25

Cemetery: - Uplands Cemetery, Magny-La-Fosse, Aisne, France A. 5

"GREATER LOVE HATH NO MAN THEN THIS"

Batley Reporter, 29 Nov 1918 (photo)

Family Details

Percy was born in Dewsbury in c.1893 the son of William and Ellen Annie Archer (nee Denton) who in 1901 lived at 5, South Woodbine Street, Dewsbury with the additions of Annie 1896 and Hephzibah 1900. He was baptised at St. Matthew's West Town on the 1st October 1893. Percy attended Wheelwright Grammar School, Dewsbury. Ellen Annie died in 1903.

In 1911 the family still lived at 5, South Woodbine Street but William was a widower employed as a rag warehouseman for a rag auctioneer. Percy was working as a clerk. AUCHU

Percy married Annie Harrison on 22nd April 1916 at Dewsbury, All Saints and they lived at 13, Elmwood Grove, Mount Street, Batley Carr. Ellen was born in the latter part of 1916. Before enlisting Percy worked as a clerk at Brown's Chemical Works, Savile Town.

Annie's father was William Harrison, the secretary of the National Independent Order of Oddfellows an Approved Society under the National Health Insurance Act.

Service Details

Percy enlisted on 7th May 1918 and came home on leave before disembarking in France on 12th September 1918. The 15th Battalion of Lancashire Fusiliers came under the orders of 96th Brigade in 32nd Division.

The Battle of the St. Quentin Canal was fought between 29th-2nd October.

The St. Quentin Canal passes under the village of Bullecourt in a tunnel five kilometres long, built under the orders of Napoleon1. The Hindenburg Line ran west of the village and the barges in the tunnel were used to shelter German reserves. About five kilometres south of Bullecourt, where the canal is open, is the village of Bellenglise where another great tunnel or dug-out was made by the Germans.

Percy was killed during the battle 18 days after arriving in France.

The last letter he wrote home was dated 26th September and he was serving in the Company's office and considered himself out of danger. His wife received a

letter in October from a Chaplain saying Percy had been killed in action but she remained hopeful until she received official communication in late November. He had gone into the trenches a couple of days after writing the letter and had paid the supreme sacrifice.

Percy was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

He is remembered with Honour at Holy Trinity Church, Batley Carr, Wheelwright Grammar School, Dewsbury and Batley and Dewsbury War Memorials.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group