Percy Calvert







Rank: - Private

Number: - 63770

Regiment: - Lancashire Fusiliers (formerly 39816, East Yorks. Regt.) 15th Battalion

Accidentally drowned whilst bathing: - 6/09/1918 Age: 33 years

Cemetery: - Adelaide Cemetery, Villers-Bretonneux, Somme, France 11.F.6

Family Details

Percy was born in Dewsbury in 1886 the son of Edward and Hannah Calvert nee Brown who had married at Batley Parish Church on the 31st December 1870.

Martha Ann was born in 1872 followed by Frances 1874, George Edward 1877, Fred 1880, Walter 1882, Ruth 1884, Percy, Annie 1889.

In 1891 the family was living at 16, Queen Street, Batley and Percy continued to live there until his marriage.

Percy attended Purlwell Council School and was connected with Broomhill Chapel in nearby Taylor Street. He worked as a warehouseman at Messrs Mark Oldroyd's, Spinkwell Mills, Dewsbury.

His father, Edward died in August 1906. The 1911 census shows that another two children had died in infancy. In 1914 Percy married Mary K. Whitehead and Raymond V was born in 1915 followed by Albert in 1918.

Before 1918 his mother moved to live in North King Street, Batley and Percy and his young family lived at 4, High Street, Hanging Heaton, Batley.

Service Details

His service records have not survived but we do know from the Batley News and the Hanging Heaton booklet that he joined the forces in May 1918 and had only been in France four days when he drowned.

A Chaplain wrote to his wife:-

"Your husband met his death in a most unfortunate manner. He was out walking along the river bank near our camp with a friend of his when they decided to go in the water for a swim, the day being very warm. Unfortunate ley the current was too strong for him and he got into difficulties. His friend plunged in to help him but before he could get to him your husband sank. This was on September 16th. He was given a military funeral with all honours on 21st September."

At this time his brother Fred was in France with the Forces, George was in hospital in Scotland and Walter had been discharged.

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

He is remembered with Honour at St. Paul's Church, Hanging Heaton, Hanging Heaton War Memorial and Batley War Memorial



Researched by members of
Batley History Group