Percy Waddington Crossley



Rank: - Lance Corporal

Number: - S/21320

Regiment: - Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders

Died of Wounds: - 19th July 1918 aged 28

Cemetery: - Batley, Yorkshire. G 502

Batley News, 19 May 1917

Family Details

Percy Waddington was born in Batley on 15th March 1890 to John Crossley and his wife Martha Ann (nee Waddington). He was baptised at Batley Parish Church on 23rd April 1890 when his father 's occupation was given as a cloth finisher living in Batley.

Henry was born in 1886 but died in January 1887 aged 9 months.

In 1891 Percy was living at Ward's Hill, Batley with his parents, maternal grandmother, Nancy Waddington who was a retail coal dealer and his paternal aunt, Ann Crossley. His father gave his occupation as a cloth raiser in a woollen mill.

Nancy Waddington died in September 1897, and the family moved to 20, Bradford Road West before 1901 along with additions to the family of Harold (1896), Lavinia (1900) and Edward Pyre who was a boarder. John was now a dyer's labourer. Gilbert was born in 1904 when the family were living at Bradford Road West, Batley but sadly died aged one year in August 1905. At some point before 1911 John and his wife went their separate ways because John and Harold were living in Pearl Street in 1911 and Lavinia and her mother were living in Beck Lane.

Percy was residing in Wakefield at the time of the 1911 census. He was described as being 5ft, 6 1/2 inches tall, having brown hair and was employed as a stoker. His education was graded as 1V.

He married Emily Holt at Batley Parish Church on 18th January 1913. The couple lived at 4, Carter Yard, Beck Lane, and Carlinghow.

A daughter, Emily was born in 1915 followed by sons Harold (1916) and Percy Waddington in 1918.

He worked at Messrs. Critchley's, Batley Colliery, he was connected to St. John's Church, Carlinghow and was a former member of Batley Working Men's Club.

Service Details

Percy originally joined the 6th Bn Cameron Hrs. as S/21320 transferring to the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders in November 1915 and embarked for France in February 1916.

In August 1916 extracts from a letter to his wife were published in the Batley News: -

"*We were waiting on Saturday all day. The guns bombarded the Germans and at 10 o'clock on Saturday night we all went over the top and advanced three or four hundred yards. We killed plenty of Germans and took some prisoners. Well I came through all right, but when we had the roll call the next day, we had suffered in both the killed and the wounded. It is a hot place here my word. The Big Advance has been fine. The Germans have been driven a long way back. I think they are beaten. One of the prisoners said "Germany is finished". One of my pals has been killed and another wounded. I carried the Batley News over the trenches with me when we advanced. We found all kinds of souvenirs –German bayonets, rifles, and spiked helmets. The Australians were next to us: they are grand lot of boys. The Germans we captured looked in an awful state. They seemed as though they were "pined" to death. It will be a grand day when the war is over."*

He was described as being a bomb thrower.

In October 1916 he was seriously injured in the head and only returned to the front six or seven weeks before he was injured again in May 1917.

He was wounded again and was sent to Birmingham where he was admitted to hospital having had his left hand amputated above the wrist whilst still in France. Writing home to his wife in a letter which was part published in the Batley News of 19th May 1917 he said: -

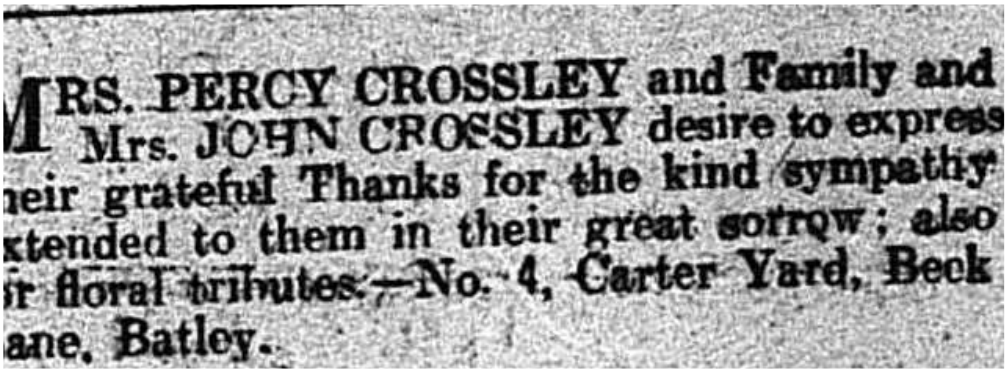
"I am now in Blighty again. I don't know whether you have heard or not, but I was wounded again a week ago. I was shot through the left wrist with a bullet and had part of my left heel blown off. Of course, it is not bad. I managed to get to the dressing station and then to hospital and on Friday night I went under an operation when they took my hand off above the wrist, as it was dead. I then came to the hospital at base for three days and left yesterday for Blighty. I lost

my razor and everything when I was wounded but of course I didn't care about that , so long as I got to the dressing station. I had a rough time of it and I thought I was never going to get there. We were up at Arras where the push has been. We went over the top four times and I was hit on the fourth. It was hard losing my hand but it might have been worse. I was in charge of 24 men at the start. Ten were killed, seven were wounded and I was left with the rest until I had to go."

He returned to Batley and died of his wounds on 19th July 1918 and was buried in Batley Cemetery. He lived at 4, Carter Yard, Beck Lane, Carlinghow.

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

He is remembered with Honour on St. John's, Carlinghow, Carlinghow Working Men's Club, Batley Cemetery and Batley War Memorial.



MRS. PERCY CROSSLEY and Family and
Mrs. JOHN CROSSLEY desire to express
heir grateful Thanks for the kind sympathy
xtended to them in their great sorrow; also
ir floral tributes.—No. 4, Carter Yard, Beck
ane, Batley.

Batley News 27/7/1918



Researched by members of
Batley History Group