Percy Link



Rank: - Private

Number: - 54357

Regiment: - Manchester Regiment 1st/6th Battalion

Killed in Action: - 15th May 1918 aged 29

Cemetery: - Couin New British Military, Pas-de-Calais, France E. 21

Family Details

Percy was born on 6th October 1888 in Carlinghow, Batley to Henry Link and his wife, Clara (nee Holmes). He was baptised on 23rd March 1892 at St. John's Carlinghow on the same day as his brother Norman who was born in1890. The family was living at 36, Cross Bank Road and Henry's occupation was given as a tuner. Clara came from Birstall and in the 1891 census two-year-old Percy was staying with his maternal grandparents in Raikes Lane, Birstall. Henry was born in Wakefield.

A decade later the family was living at 27, Cross Bank Road and Henry had become a life assurance agent. He died in May 1904 before the birth of Leonard in August 1904. Whilst living in Batley, Henry became known as a local conjuror.

Florence was born in 1885 followed by Minnie (1886), Percy (1888), Norman (1891), Ada (1893), Raymond (1895), Sabina Margaret (1897), Albert (1899), and Leonard Henry (1904). According to the 1911 there was another child who had died in infancy. This was probably Harold born August 1883 who sadly died November 1884.

In 1911 when the family was living in 27, Beck Lane, Carlinghow, Percy was working as a hand loom pattern weaver.

Percy married Elsie Senior, who was a warper, on 14th June 1913 at St. John's Carlinghow. The couple went to live at St. John's Avenue, Pearl Street and Norman Senior, their son, was born in 1915.

Before enlisting Percy was employed as a pattern checker at J.T. & Taylor's, Blakeridge Mills and was connected to St. John's Church, Carlinghow and was a member of Hanover Street P.S.A.

In October 1922 Elsie married Alfred Ineson at Christ Church, Staincliffe.

Service Details

Percy enrolled in Batley in 1917 and embarked for France in October 1917.

He was invalided home with trench foot and had only returned to his unit seven weeks before he was killed.

In May 1918 the 1/6th Manchester Regiment were at Henu. For most of the time they were in training but according to the War Diaries on the 14th news was received that a regiment of American soldiers would be attached to their Brigade. On the 15th a Brigade Tactical Scheme was carried out in Beer Trench but this was completed during the day and all had returned to billets before 8 pm. At 10.30 pm enemy aircraft dropped six bombs around the billeting area. One billet occupied by "C" Company was directly hit with the result that one other rank was killed and 23 others were injured. The bombs were all dropped within the space of about 30 seconds and luckily were all small. There were also casualties from other units billeted in the same area.

It was reported by his captain that Percy was killed whilst asleep in his billet from a bomb dropping from an enemy aeroplane adding "He *is a great loss to the Company".*

A chaplain added: "*Everyone liked your husband and we feel his loss very keenly".*

His platoon officer wrote saying he had been buried with military honours and all his comrades attended to pay their last respects.

At the time of his death his brother Norman was a Second Air Mechanic in the R.A.F. Driver Raymond had been in the A.S.C. for almost four years and was in Salonika whilst Seaman Albert was ill in hospital.
His brother- in-law John Goodall had been killed exactly a year earlier.

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

He is remembered on Batley War Memorial, St. John's Church Carlinghow and Couin Military Cemetery.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group