

## **Percy V Woodhead**

b. 11<sup>th</sup> January 1891

d. 22<sup>nd</sup> April 1917

Father: Not named

Mother: Edith Woodhead

Married: Did not marry

Children: None

Lived: Stocksbridge and Canada

Worked: Coal Miner Trammer, Labourer



Percy was born on 11<sup>th</sup> January 1891 the son of Edith Woodhead who was unmarried and only 17 at the time. In the 1891 census he is listed as two months old and the grandson of Edith's father Thomas and mother Ann. They were living with Thomas and Ann at Horner House, Stocksbridge. In addition to Edith and Percy, also living in the house were Edith's sisters, Clara, Ada, Lily, Evelyn and Annie and her brothers Thornton, Ben, Wilson and Leonard.

In the 1901 census, Percy was listed as the son of Thomas and Ann. Edith, his mother was no longer living in the house, and so it was probably socially convenient to call Percy their son. Also still there were Thornton, Ben, Wilson Evelyn and Annie, as well as Spencer, Lily's son.

In 1911, Percy had moved out and was boarding with his aunt Ada, his mother's sister and uncle Harry Riley at 32 Shaw Street, Barnsley and working as a Coal Miner, Trammer in one of the coal pits. A trammer was a person who loaded broken rock on tramcars and delivered it to the shaft. The 1911 census was taken on the 4<sup>th</sup> April and later that month on the 13<sup>th</sup>, Percy left England on the Allen Line Steamship 'Victorian', sailing from Liverpool bound for Halifax, Nova Scotia in Canada. He settled in Estevan, a mining town in Saskatchewan, close to the border with the United States, where his mother was already living, having emigrated in 1904.

This photograph, taken from a postcard he sent to Lily, his aunt, shows him in the uniform of the Canadian Infantry. He enlisted with the 46<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Saskatchewan Regiment in 1915 and sailed for England on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 1915 before being shipped to France. In November 1916, whilst at Bramshott Camp in Hampshire he was struck by a motor, sustained a fractured radius and was taken to Frensham Hill Military Hospital in Surrey. After finishing training in England, the Battalion was sent to France

The 46<sup>th</sup> Battalion had been in various actions during the battle for the Vimy Ridge, near Arras primarily on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> April 1917. Percy was shot on 9<sup>th</sup> April, probably by a sniper, and sustained a gunshot wound to the spine. He was invalided out to number 13 General Hospital in Boulogne where he was described as 'seriously ill'. He was then transferred to King George Hospital in Stamford Street, London, where on 14<sup>th</sup> April he was described as 'dangerously ill' and on 19<sup>th</sup> April 'seriously ill'. He 'died of wounds' on 22<sup>nd</sup> April.

He is buried in the churchyard of St Mary's, Bolsterstone and remembered on the war memorials at Stocksbridge and Bolsterstone.