

Percy Shrapnell

Born in Bath District, Somerset 1893

Killed in Action Asiago Plateau, Italy 15 June 1918

Percy Shrapnell joined up in Trowbridge in December 1915, under the Derby Scheme, deferring his mobilisation until March 1916. A Private, he was posted to the Royal Warwickshire Regiment, changing Battalion a couple of times, ending up with the 1st/7th.

Sent to France in August 1916, so there through the Battles of the Somme, he was sent home in December 1916 to recover from Trench Fever. After two months in hospital, he remained on home service until September 1917, returning to France during the Third Battle of Ypres (Passchendale). By then with the 1st/7th Battalion, he went with them to the mountains of north eastern Italy.

On the night of 15th/16th June 1918 Austro-Hungarian forces attacked the British sector of the Front Line (Piave Line) on the Asiago Plateau. Percy Shrapnell was one of 10 of his Battalion to be killed in action on the 15th; they all lie in the Magnaboschi British Cemetery.

Percy Shrapnell is also commemorated on the North Bradley Memorial Plaques.

See Percy Shrapnell's Life Story at: <https://livesofthefirstworldwar.org/lifestory/4024113>

Father: Unknown

Mother: Mary Ann Shrapnell

Born and brought up in Yarnbrook, the second of 7 surviving children.

Died in Melksham District in 1935.

Mary Ann had left home by the time of the 1881 Census when she was 16, not unusual for a poor family. In 1891 she is found living in as the only Domestic Servant to a farmer's family in Claverton close to the city of Bath.

Percy's birth was registered in Bath District in the first Quarter of 1893. In the second Quarter of 1899, Ernest George Shrapnell was born. At time of writing, it is uncertain whether he was Mary Ann's child – he is recorded as 'Grandson' living with her parents, 3 uncles and an aunt, and Percy in Yarnbrook for the 1901 Census.

In 1901 Mary Ann is again living in as a General Domestic Servant, this time for an older farming couple in Wingfield, so nearer her son/s. By the 1911 Census, Percy is 18 years old, still living with his grandparents in Yarnbrook and working as a Bricklayers Labourer. Only his youngest uncle, a couple of years older than him, is also living there too.

G/father

G/mother

G/father

Joseph Shrapnell

b. Trowbridge

Labourer

G/mother

Ellen Bishop

b. West Ashton

Percy's possible brother, Ernest George Shrapnell, also served in the British Army in the War, surviving to marry Mabel Payne in Trowbridge in 1927 and had a daughter, Ernestine. Ernest's Life Story is here: <https://livesofthefirstworldwar.org/lifestory/4024107>

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