



Harold Percy Patrick

Harold Percy Patrick was born in Corby in 1893. His father, William Patrick was born in Corby; his mother, Mary Lizzie Patrick (nee Dixon) was from Nottinghamshire. The couple married in 1892.

The Family

In 1901, the family was living in Weldon Road, Corby. William worked as an ironstone miner. Percy (7) and sister Mildred (5) were resident. Hilda Patrick born 1899 had unfortunately died in 1900.

A younger son Ernest was born in 1903 (his death was recorded as 1918 but this is not war related) and another daughter Violet born in 1907.

By 1911, Harold Percy Patrick was employed as an engine fitter/labourer. The family was still living in Weldon Road.

In 1913 Harold Percy Patrick married Elizabeth E Draper. A son, Lawrence Raymond Patrick was born in Corby in 1914. Harold Percy Patrick was resident in Kettering at the time of his enlistment.

Military Service

Harold Percy Patrick joined the Northamptonshire Regiment in November 1914 serving as a Private in the 1st Battalion (16550). He arrived in France in March 1915.

Private Patrick was killed on 9th May 1915 at the Battle of Aubers. Four other soldiers from the Borough serving in the Northamptonshire Regiment died that day; two others from Corby, one from Weldon, another from Gretton.

Private Harold Percy Patrick is remembered on both the Kettering and the Corby War Memorials and the Le Touret Memorial.

The Le Touret Memorial commemorates over 13,400 British soldiers who were killed in this sector of the Western Front from the beginning of October 1914 to the eve of the Battle of Loos in late September 1915 and who have no known grave. The Memorial takes the form of a loggia surrounding an open rectangular court. The names of those commemorated are listed on panels set into the walls of the court and the gallery, arranged by regiment, rank and alphabetically by surname within the rank. The memorial was designed by John Reginald Truelove, who had served as an officer with the London Regiment during the war, and unveiled by the British



ambassador to France, Lord Tyrrell, on 22 March 1930. Almost all of the men commemorated on the Memorial served with regular or territorial regiments from across the United Kingdom and were killed in actions that took place along a section of the front line that stretched from Estaires in the north to Grenay in the south. This part of the Western Front was the scene of some of the heaviest fighting of the first year of the war, including the battles of La Bassée (10 October – 2 November 1914), Neuve Chapelle (10 – 12 March 1915), Aubers Ridge (9 – 10 May 1915), and Festubert (15 – 25 May 1915). Soldiers serving with Indian and Canadian units who were killed in this sector in 1914 and '15 whose remains were never identified are commemorated on the Neuve Chapelle and Vimy memorials, while those who fell during the northern pincer attack at the Battle of Aubers Ridge are commemorated on the Ploegsteert Memorial.

The British Expeditionary Force in French Flanders, 1914 – 1915 - In October 1914, II Corps of the British Expeditionary Force moved north from Picardy and took up positions in French Flanders where they were immediately engaged in the series of attacks and counter attacks that would become known as the 'race to the sea'. Over the course of the next year most of the British activity in this sector focused on attempting to dislodge the German forces from their advantageous position on the Aubers Ridge and capture the city of Lille, a major industrial and transport centre which the Germans had occupied early in the war. The ridge is a slight incline in an otherwise extremely flat landscape from which the Germans were able to observe and bombard the British lines. Following the British capture of the village of Neuve Chapelle in March 1915, the Germans greatly strengthened their defences along the ridge, reinforcing their positions with thick barbed wire entanglements, concrete blockhouses and machine gun emplacements. These extra defences frustrated British attempts to break through enemy lines and led to very heavy casualties at the battles of Aubers Ridge and Festubert in May 1915.

Le Touret Military Cemetery - The men of the Indian Corps began burying their fallen comrades at this site in November 1914 and the cemetery was used continually by field ambulances and fighting units until the German spring offensive began in March 1918. Richebourg L'Avoue was overrun by the German forces in April 1918, but the cemetery was used again in September and October after this territory was recaptured by the Allies. Today over 900 Commonwealth servicemen who were killed during the First World War are buried here.

Reference

Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Lest We Forget

Harold Percy Patrick
of the Northamptonshire Regiment

d. 9th May 1915

