



Percival Louis Michael

William, a police officer, and Elizabeth Mewes were married in January 1871 and lived in Battersea. By 1881 they had three children and had moved to 19 Percy Gardens, Isleworth. On 28th April 1888, Elizabeth gave birth to their third son Percival Louis, known as Percy. Later, the family moved to Belle Vue, Algar Road and, later still, moved to 12 Church Street and 48 Talbot Road, all in Isleworth. William was now a retired policeman, their only daughter was an assistant schoolmistress, William (Junior) a carpenter, George, a Commercial Clerk (to die in service in France in 1918) and Percy was probably at school.



Photo courtesy of Mag Lissens
Photo source: gracemuseum.org Mag Lissens

About ten years later Percy (23), who was now working as a Coal Office Clerk, must have been aware of the Canadian government's policy of promoting immigration. He departed Liverpool on 18th August 1911 on the Corsican, as one of the 1.18 million British people who arrived in Canada between 1902 and 1914. The vessel's documentation shows that Percy was headed for Hamilton, Ontario and his occupation was listed as 'clerk'. We don't know whether or not Percy was happily settled in Canada, but we do know he found work as a bookkeeper. With war looming, Percy joined up. **He served with the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (known as The Patricia's) although it appears that his original unit may have been 11th Canadian Infantry Battalion.** If this is the case, Percy would have embarked on the SS Royal Edward from Quebec in late Sep, arriving in Plymouth Oct.18th 1914 ; She was then sent on to Avonmouth to relieve the congestion. The ship's arrival at 6am was top secret and the local inhabitants knew nothing until the drum and fife band marched through the streets at 9. The 11th Battalion moved to Tidworth and in March the Battalion moved to Shorncliffe and became **11th Reserve Battalion whose soldiers would replace the fallen, sick, and injured men in the rest of the Division.** Percy signed his Attestation Paper on the 26th October '15 at Shorncliffe Camp listing his father William as his next of kin (his family now living at 48 Talbot Road). Exactly when Percy joined **The Patricia's** is unclear but he may have taken his place in the trenches on March 9th 1916. Forty one days later he was dead.

War Diary of PPCLI: *Wed, Apr 19, 1916 HOOGE, BELGIUM 19/4/16 Enemy snipers not so active. Some shelling of Half way house and R no damage, heavy retaliation by our artillery and heavies. Heavy enemy bombardment on both sides **in evening** & small infantry attacks. Very quiet on our front. **Private Percy Louis Michael Reg No.1840 Casualty Form: Killed in Action.** While on duty in the front line trenches at Hooge, at about 9pm April 19th 1916, he was hit in the back and instantly killed by an enemy rifle grenade. He is remembered at the Menin Road South Military Cemetery and also at All Souls Church, Northcote Road, St. Margarets.*

