



Percival James Alfred Norris (Q2 1895 – 30 September 1918)

Percival was the son of Edwin James Norris and his second wife, Ann Elizabeth Rambridge. They married in November 1894 following the death of his first wife in 1891 at the age of 31. Edwin was a House Carpenter and was born in Exmouth in Devon. Ann was born in Swerford in Oxfordshire.



There were 6 children in the family. Following Percival in 1895 came George Leonard (1897), Laurie Arthur (1899), Louis Langabeer (1901) and then Mercy Ada born in 1904. Percy also had an older half brother, Edwin James who was born in 1891. The 5 older children were all born in Battersea, London but Mercy was born in Twickenham.

In 1911 the family were all living at 7 Haliburton Road in St Margarets. At that time Percival was aged 15 and was working as a Kitchen Boy in a restaurant.

Percival enlisted into the army in Kingston on 19 November 1915 at the age of 20. His occupation at the time was Carpenter. He was a Private in the 2nd Battalion of the East Surrey Regiment. He was sent to Salonika in October 1916 where the Regiment had been fighting since December 1915. His Battalion was part of the 85th Infantry Brigade of the 28th Division which fought at the Third Battle of Doiran on 18-19 September 1918. This involved the Greek and British troops assaulting the heavily defended positions of the Bulgarian First Army in the hills near Doiran Lake. The Greek and British troops were repulsed with considerable loss of life (around 7,000 men). However, a few days later the Bulgarians capitulated and abandoned their positions.



7 Haliburton Road, St Margarets

Having survived the battle, but still on active service, Percival became ill on 26 September 1918. His condition worsened so on 29 September he was sent to a Casualty Clearing Station with breathing difficulties and cyanosis. Despite treatment, he died of bronchial pneumonia at 2.20am on 30 September 1918 at the age of 23. That day the war in Macedonia ended with an armistice.

Percival was buried in the Doiran Military Cemetery in Central Macedonia, Greece. He is also remembered on the memorial at All Souls Church in Northcote Road, St Margarets.