

PERCY GATENBY

Percy Gatenby was born in Holme-on-Swale, Yorkshire in 1890. His father William was a groom and gardener.

By the 1901 census the family had moved to Main Street, Maltby-le-Marsh, Lincolnshire. William Gatenby was working as a groom. By 1911 Percy himself was working as a groom and living in lodgings in Dalby.

On 30th December 1912 Percy married Bertha Wilson in St Nicholas Church, Partney. Percy was working as a groom. His father William was now a publican who by 1913 was running the Bedale Hunt Inn, Leemington Lane, Malmesbury in Yorkshire. Bertha's father was also a publican and ran the White Horse Inn in Silver Street, Gainsborough.

Percy and Bertha's son Ronald was born on 20th March 1913 and baptised in St Nicholas Church on 10th May 1913. The family were living in Chapel Lane. They also had a daughter, Evelyn May, who was baptised in St Nicholas Church on 28th October 1923. Percy was still working as a groom. Sadly Evelyn died aged 5 and was buried in Partney on 13th January 1929.

During the First World War, Percy was a driver with the Army Service Corps. He had five other brothers, William, Thomas, Ernest, Herbert and Sydney who also served.

The Army Service Corps was organised into Companies, each fulfilling a specific role. Some were under orders of or attached to the Divisions of the army; the rest were under direct orders of the higher formations of Corps, Army or the GHQ of the army in each theatre of war. The Companies were:

Horsed Transport Companies (including Companies in Divisional Trains, Reserve Parks and SAA Trains)

Mechanical Transport Companies (including Companies in Divisional Supply Columns and Ammunition Parks, Companies attached to the heavy artillery, Omnibus Companies, Motor Ambulance Convoys, Bridging and Pontoon units and Workshops)

The Army Remounts Service (Companies involved in the provision of horses)

The ASC Labour Companies

Percy could have worked as a driver in any of these companies.

In 1922 Percy was elected as a sidesman for St Nicholas Church, Partney. He lived at Foxgill in Hardings Lane, Partney.