



Private Percy Lewis Burnand



1st City of London Battalion (Royal Fusiliers)

Died 15 September 1916

Age 22

Percy Lewis Burnand is remembered among the war dead at All Saints Church. His brother **Benjamin Burnand** is remembered alongside him. Both young men are also remembered on the memorial plaque in the church hall of the Church of King Charles the Martyr, Tunbridge Wells. He was killed in action on 15 September 1916 and listed with the war dead at the Thiepval Memorial in the Somme, France.

Percy joined The London Regiment, enlisting at Handel Street. They were originally stationed at Bloomsbury and first deployed to guard the railway line from Newhaven to London, and later mobilized for war in March 2015. In February 1916, they joined the 25th brigade of the 6th division and on 15 September 1916 began the Battle of Flers–Courcellette, part of the Somme Offensive, in the summer and autumn of 1916. Flers–Courcellette began with the objective of cutting a hole in the German line by using massed artillery and infantry attacks. By its conclusion on 22 September, the front lines were advanced by over 2,500 yards (2,300 m) by the Allied attacks. The British army used tanks for the first time - developed in great secrecy they came as a huge shock to the Germans. This battle also marked the debut of the Canadian and New Zealand Divisions on the Somme battlefield. It would appear that Percy was killed in action on the first day of this battle.

Percy Burnand was born in July 1894 and brought up in Reigate but his family had links with this area for generations. His father and mother had been married at St Mary's and his grandfather had been an underwriter and brought up his family in Carlton Drive. At the time of enlisting Percy was registered as living in Herne Bay in Kent but as Percy's father died in 1915, it appears that his sisters Mary and Augusta who had lived all their lives in Putney latterly in Footscraw, 4 Egliston Road, asked for their nephews Percy and Benjamin to be remembered at All Saints' due to the longstanding family ties with the parish.

SERVICE NUMBER: 5462