

**Pioneer Percy Daniel Kingshott**  
**Regimental Number: 128296**  
**“K” Special Company, Royal Engineers, 1<sup>st</sup> Corp T**

**born: 1894 - died: 20 May 1918**

Percy Daniel Kingshott was born in Kensington, London, in late 1894 or early January 1895<sup>1</sup> and was baptised on 3 January 1895 at Notting Hill All Saints Church.<sup>2</sup> He came from a large family. His parents, Albert Henry (also recorded as Henry Albert) and Alice Jane had sixteen children, fourteen of whom survived childhood. There were seven boys and five girls: Alice Jane (born 1889),<sup>3</sup> Albert Henry (born 1891),<sup>4</sup> William George (born 1893),<sup>5</sup> Percy Daniel (born late 1894 or early 1895),<sup>6</sup> Ada Eleanor (born 1897),<sup>7</sup> Frederick Charles (born 1899),<sup>8</sup> Arthur Thomas (born 1901),<sup>9</sup> Sydney Ernest (born 1903),<sup>10</sup> twin girls, Elsie Louise and Ellen Maud (born 1904),<sup>11</sup> George Edward (born 1907)<sup>12</sup> and Ethel Grace (born 1910).<sup>13</sup>

Percy's father, Albert Henry, was a carman with a London parcels delivery company the family had always lived in the London area. They initially lived west of London, in Acton.<sup>14</sup> Then, in 1891, they had moved to north London and were living at 60 Bramley Road, London<sup>15</sup> and lived on various streets in the Kensington area. In 1911, they had moved back to west of London and were living at 22 Cranmer Ave, West Ealing, Middlesex. This was a five-room house, in which Albert and his wife lived with eleven of their children – ranging in ages from 21 to six months. Percy, who was then 16, was an errand boy for a chemist.<sup>16</sup>

Percy enlisted in Ealing, Middlesex. He first serviced in the Royal Fusiliers and then as a Pioneer in the Royal Engineers.<sup>17</sup> After his enlistment in January 1916, he took a training course, after which he left for the Western Front.<sup>18</sup> He served with the “K” Special Company.<sup>19</sup> The Special Companies were created during World War I to develop Britain's response to German gas attacks.<sup>20</sup>

According to an entry in “The National Roll of the Great War,” he “...suffered from gas poisoning. Whilst awaiting embarkation before being invalided home, he was killed by a bomb during a German air raid on Whit Sunday of 1918.”<sup>21</sup> However, the entry for Percy in the diary of the chaplain at the 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station, J. K. Tibbits, does not mention the bombing.<sup>22</sup> It records that Percy was gassed and admitted to the 1st CCCS on 20 May. He died the same day, at the age of 23, and was buried the next day in the Pernes British Military Cemetery (Plot 1, Row F, Grave 22). His mother was notified of his death<sup>23</sup> and received the monies the army owed Percy after his death.<sup>24</sup>

On 20 May, 370 soldiers were admitted to the 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station – by far the highest number of admissions in any one day that month.<sup>25</sup> This brought the total number of patients to 522. In the whole month of May, there were 115 deaths at this CCCS – more than in any of the other three and a half months that the 1st CCCS was in Pernes. The Pernes British Military Cemetery was only set up in April 1918 when the 1st and 4th Canadian Casualty Clearing Stations came to Pernes, driven back by the German advance.<sup>26</sup>

Although it appears that at least two of Percy's brothers served in World War I, neither appeared to have been killed. William George was a Lance Corporal in the Princess Charlotte of Wales's (Royal Berkshire) Regiment and was discharged in July 1916.<sup>27</sup> Frederick Charles served in the Navy from early 1917 until 1922 when, as an Able Seaman, he was invalided out with deafness.<sup>28</sup>

Percy was awarded the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918) and the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre).<sup>29</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 6 December 2014), entry for Percy Daniel Kingshott, Registration district: Kensington, Inferred County: London, Volume: 1a, Page: 104. His birth was registered in the first quarter of 1895. Given that he was baptised on 3 January 1895, he was either born in the first few days of January 1895 or the end of 1894.

<sup>2</sup> "London, England, Births and Baptisms, 1813-1906," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 7 December 2014), entry for Percy Daniel Kingshott

<sup>3</sup> "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 6 December 2014), entry for Alice Jane Kingshott, Registration district: Fulham, Inferred County: London, Volume: 1a, Page: 227

<sup>4</sup> "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 6 December 2014), entry for Albert Henry Kingshott, Registration district: Kensington, Inferred County: London, Volume: 1a, Page: 144

<sup>5</sup> "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 6 December 2014), entry for William George Kingshott, Registration district: Kensington, Inferred County: London, Volume: 1a, Page: 131

<sup>6</sup> "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837-1915," entry for Percy Daniel Kingshott

<sup>7</sup> "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 6 December 2014), entry for Ada Eleanor Kingshott, Registration district: Kensington, Inferred County: London, Volume: 1a, Page: 138

<sup>8</sup> "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 6 December 2014), entry for Frederick Charles Kingshott, Registration district: Kensington, Inferred County: London, Volume: 1a, Page: 91

<sup>9</sup> "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 6 December 2014), entry for Arthur Thomas Kingshott, Registration district: Kensington, Inferred County: London, Volume: 1a, Page: 124

<sup>10</sup> "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 6 December 2014), entry for Sydney Ernest Kingshott, Registration district: Kensington, Inferred County: London, Volume: 1a, Page: 114

<sup>11</sup> "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 6 December 2014), entry for Elsie Louise Kingshott, Registration district: Kensington, Inferred County: London, Volume: 1a, Page: 124 and "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 6 December 2014), entry for Ellen Maud Kingshott, Registration district: Kensington, Inferred County: London, Volume: 1a, Page: 124

<sup>12</sup> "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 6 December 2014), entry for George Edward Kingshott, Registration district: Kensington, Inferred County: London, Volume: 1a, Page: 84

<sup>13</sup> "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 3 December 2014), entry for Albert Henry Kingshott, County/Island: Middlesex, Registration district: Brentford, Registration District Number: 128, Sub-registration district: Brentford, ED, institution, or vessel: 42, Household schedule number: 284, Piece: 6909

<sup>14</sup> "London, England, Births and Baptisms, 1813-1906," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 7 December 2014), entry for Alice Jane Kingshott

<sup>15</sup> "London, England, Births and Baptisms, 1813-1906," entry for Albert Henry Kingshott

<sup>16</sup> "1911 England Census," entry for Albert Henry Kingshott

<sup>17</sup> "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914-1920," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed dd December 2014), entry for Percy Kingshott

<sup>18</sup> "The National Roll of the Great War," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 7 December 2014), entry for P. D. Kingshott

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- <sup>19</sup> "Record of Deaths, 17 February 1916 - 10 February 1919, a record maintained at No. 1 CCCS," Library and Archives Canada, (records accessed 2013 & 2014), Record Group 9, series IIC10, volume 4556, Record number 509
- <sup>20</sup> "The Special Companies RE," *The Long, Long Trail* (<http://www.1914-1918.net/specialcoyre.htm>: accessed 26 November 2014) <http://www.1914-1918.net/specialcoyre.htm>
- <sup>21</sup> "The National Roll of the Great War," entry for P. D. Kingshott
- <sup>22</sup> "Record of Deaths, 17 February 1916 - 10 February 1919, a record maintained at No. 1 CCCS," Record number 509
- <sup>23</sup> "Record of Deaths, 17 February 1916 - 10 February 1919, a record maintained at No. 1 CCCS," Record number 509
- <sup>24</sup> "UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901-1929," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk); accessed 19 January 2015), entry for Percy Daniel Kingshott
- <sup>25</sup> "War Diaries of the First World War: 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station 1914/08/13-1919/03/31," *Library and Archives Canada* ([http://data4.collectionscanada.gc.ca/netacgi/nph-brs?s1=casualty+clearing&s13=&s12=&l=20&s9=RG9&s7=9-52&Sect1=IMAGE&Sect2=THESOFF&Sect4=AND&Sect5=WARDPEN&Sect6=HITOFF&d=FINN&p=1&u=http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/archivianet/02015202\\_e.html&r=1&f=G](http://data4.collectionscanada.gc.ca/netacgi/nph-brs?s1=casualty+clearing&s13=&s12=&l=20&s9=RG9&s7=9-52&Sect1=IMAGE&Sect2=THESOFF&Sect4=AND&Sect5=WARDPEN&Sect6=HITOFF&d=FINN&p=1&u=http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/archivianet/02015202_e.html&r=1&f=G): accessed 15 December 2014)
- <sup>26</sup> "Pernes British Military Cemetery" *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (<http://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/11600/PERNES%20BRITISH%20CEMETERY>: accessed 13 January 2015)
- <sup>27</sup> "British Army WWI Pension Records 1914-1920," entry for William George Kingshott
- <sup>28</sup> "Royal Navy Seamen 1899-1919," *Findmypast* ([www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk): accessed 8 December 2014), entry for Frederick Charles Kingshott, Archive reference: ADM 188/745/49235
- <sup>29</sup> "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914-1920, entry for Percy Kingshott