

2nd Lieutenant Percy Norman Leopold McInnes[©]

Regimental number: —

5th Battalion (Territorial), Yorkshire Regiment

born: 1882–died: 1916

Percy Norman Leopold McInnes was born in 1882 in Goole, Yorkshire West Riding,¹ the youngest of four children born to Henry and Elizabeth,² née Morfitt.³ The others were Edwin Airton (b. 1875),⁴ Annie Evelyn (b. 1876),⁵ and Henry Oswald (b. 1878).⁶

Percy's father Henry was a marine superintending engineer (a person who is responsible for the maintenance and repair of the vessels of a shipping line and for the supervision of its engineering personnel)^{7, 8} who worked for G. R. Sanderson & Co., shipowners in Hull.⁹ Henry was born in Scotland, though his siblings were all born in Yorkshire.¹⁰ In 1872 he married Elizabeth Morfitt in Goole, Yorkshire.¹¹ She was the daughter of a wheelwright master, Tom J. Morfitt.¹²

In 1901, at age 19, Percy was working as a bank clerk in Scarborough, living as a boarder in the house of Hiram and Emma Heatherington.¹³ According to the notice of his death in the local paper, he was a cashier at Messrs. Barclay's and Co's bank in Scarborough.¹⁴ He had received his early training at Barclay's Bank in Hull. Ten years later, in the 1911 Census, he was again recorded as a bank clerk, and again in the house of Hiram and Emma Heatherington (but at a different address in Scarborough), this time as a visitor.¹⁵

Later that month (April 1911) Percy married Florence Collier, the adopted daughter of Walter Lee.¹⁶ Walter Lee was a retired rag auctioneer and Florence was his niece.¹⁷ She was 34 at the time, six years older than Percy. Sadly, she did not live much longer, passing away on 14 May 1914.¹⁸ Percy was soon to lose other family members as well; his father died on 24 January 1915¹⁹ and his mother on 1 October 1915.²⁰

At the onset of the First World War, Percy went into training with the OTC Inns of Court and was gazetted to the Yorkshire Regiment. He went to France on 28 July 1915.²¹

Percy was appointed a 2nd lieutenant in the Alexandra, Princess of Wales's Own (Yorkshire Regiment) on 15 November 1916.²² The records differ regarding the unit to which he was assigned: some state the 3/5th Battalion,^{23, 24} whereas others state the 5th Battalion (Territorial).^{25, 26} What is beyond doubt is that in July 1916 he was in the 5th Battalion, as part of the 150 Infantry Brigade in the 50th Division. His death was recorded in the war diary of the 5th Battalion, on 20 July 1916.²⁷

The battalion was in the trenches near Kemmel, just over the border into Belgium. There was no particular military action on that day, but enemy shelling killed two officers and wounded 2nd Lieutenant McInnes, who died later that day at No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station in Bailleul.²⁸

A casualty clearing station was a military medical unit behind the front lines, usually located near transportation. Casualties who did not soon die or could not be adequately treated in the CCS were stabilized before being transported to a field or military hospital.²⁹



From "Death of Lieut. McInnes," in *Hull Daily Mail*, 4 August 1915

2nd Lieutenant McInnes was buried in the Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord, Reference II. F. 59.³⁰ The personal inscription on his headstone reads:

26 ROYAL AVENUE, SCARBOROUGH
HE TOOK THE PATH WHERE DUTY LED

The cemetery lies in the east end of the town of Bailleul, in the Nord department of the Hauts-de-France region and contains the remains of 4,344 soldiers from the two world wars.

2nd Lieutenant McInnes was awarded posthumously the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre) and the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918).³¹

Percy's oldest brother **Edwin** was also a bank clerk.³² In 1911 he married Emily Harris,³³ the daughter of John Harris, a house and estate agent.³⁴ During the war, Edwin served in the Training Reserve of the Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry; he suffered some degree of disablement (20%), but the records state there were "no grounds for award."³⁵ He was discharged on 11 January 1919, when living at 227 Marlborough Avenue in Hull. In 1939 he had retired and was still living with Emily in the same house.³⁶ He died in 1955.³⁷

Percy's other brother, **Oswald Henry** (and recorded as either Oswald or Henry), trained as a naval architect at the Nautical and Engineering School in Hull,³⁸ apprenticed at Earle's Shipbuilding & Engineering Co. Ltd in Hull, and worked as a 3rd engineer and draughtsman before becoming a ship and engine surveyor for the British Corporation Register of Shipping. In 1904 he married Ethel Ellison, the daughter of James Ellison, Gentleman.³⁹ It was a triple wedding in Silsden Church on 2 August 1904, with Ethel's younger sister Louisa Agnes marrying Harrison Summerscales and Oswald's sister Annie Evelyn marrying William Ernest Hopps. Oswald and Ethel had a daughter, Kathleen Elizabeth, in 1907.⁴⁰

There is no evidence of military service for Oswald. In 1939 he was still working for the British Corporation Register of Shipping, living in Sheffield with his wife Ethel.⁴¹ He died two years later, in 1941.⁴²

Percy's sister **Annie Evelyn** married William Ernest Hopps, an architect, in 1904, as referenced above. They had a daughter, Nora Doreen, in 1908.⁴³ In 1939 they were living with their daughter and son-in-law in Haltemprice, Yorkshire.⁴⁴ Annie Evelyn died in 1959.⁴⁵

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- ⁵ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.ca: accessed 18 June 2022), entry for Annie Everle?E McInnes [*sic*], Registration district: Goole, Inferred county: Yorkshire West Riding, Volume: 9c, Page: 767
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- ¹¹ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.ca: accessed 18 June 2022), entry for Henry McInnes, Registration district: Goole, Inferred county: Yorkshire, West Riding, Volume: 9c, Page: 773
- ¹² "1861 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.ca: accessed 18 June 2022), entry for Tom J Morfitt, Registration district: Goole, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 1, Piece: 3527, Folio: 10, Page: 11
- ¹³ "1901 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.ca: accessed 18 June 2022), entry for Arey Norman McInnes [*sic*], Registration district: Scarborough, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 08, Piece: 4530, Folio: 118, Page: 25
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- ¹⁵ "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.ca: accessed 23 June 2022), entry for Norman L McInniss [*sic*], Registration district number: 527, Sub-registration district: Scarborough, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 10, Piece: 28934
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