

Draft Notes for Percy Harry Doel in Freshford Great War Heroic Dead.paw

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P Doel, Pte. Royal West Kent Reg. ¹

1894 Birth of **Percy Harry Doel** registered Stroud, Gloucestershire. ²

1901 Census shows Jesse Doel age 36 Stickworker living at High St, Minchinhampton, Gloucestershire with wife Fanny age 33, and children Frank age 13, Lily age 11, Annie age 10, Ivy age 8, **Percy** age 6, Wilfrid [sic] age 5 and Ewart age 2 all b. Minchinhampton, Gloucestershire. ³

1911 Census shows Jesse Doel age 46 Wood Sawyer living at Burleigh, Brinscombe, Nr. Stroud, Gloucestershire (six rooms) with wife Fanny age 43 (married 24yrs, children born alive 9, still living 9), and children Lily age 21 single Cloth Weaver, Ivy age 18 single Servant Domestic, **Percy** age 16 single Assistant Baker, Wilfred age 15 Assistant Gardener, Ewart age 12 School and Dennis age 2 all b. Minchinhampton, Gloucestershire also Boarder Albert Paxton single age 34 Gardener Domestic b. Oxfordshire. ⁴

Wife - Ada Florence Watts

1891 Census shows William Watts age 36 General Labourer b. Hinton, Somerset living at 20, Park Corner Freshford with wife Harriett age 36 Laundress b. Hinton, Somerset, and children Fred K age 10 b. Limpley Stoke, Wilts, Louise age 9, Charles age 17, Ada age 5 all b. Freshford Somt. and boarder Louisa Rose age 17 s Laundress b. Freshford, Somt. ⁵

1911 Census shows Harriet Watts age 56 widow (4 children born alive, all still living) Laundress Own Account b. Freshford, Somerset living at Clematis Cottage, Park Corner, Freshford, Bath (5 rooms) with daughter Ada Watts age 25 single Laundress (help) b. Freshford, Somerset. ⁶

1917 Marriage solemnized at the Parish Church in the parish of Freshford in the county of Somerset on 9th June 1917 between **Percy Harry Doel** age 25 bachelor In the Army of Bourne Park Camp, Canterbury father Jesse Doel, Sawyer and **Ada Florence Watts** of Freshford father William Watts (deceased) Vanman registered Bath, Somerset according to the rites and ceremonies of the Established Church by Licence by me *Edward Lockyer* (Rector) in the presence of Frederick William Watts, Harriet Watts and Jesse Doel. ^{7,8}

First World War

1914 Service Record from 1914. **Percy Harry Doel**, No. 5706 6th Bn R W Kent Regt. Address: Mount Pleasant, Freshford, Som/ British, age 22yrs7mo, Baker, Not married. Height: 5ft 5 1/4 inches; Chest: 56 inches; Eyes: brown; Hair D brown; Next-of-Kin: Mr J Doel Burleigh Nr Stroud. History Sheet: Home 5.2.17 to 11/9/17 BEF 12.9.17 to 28.3.18 British War and Victory Medals. Marriage to **Ada Florence Doel** née Watts Freshford Somerset 9.6.17. ⁹

1917 No. 242155 Pte **Doel P. H.** Regiment 5th Battn R.W.K. Regt. Name and Address of next of kin . . . Doel Ada Florence of Park Corner, Freshford, Somerset. Particulars of Marriage: Ada F Doel Freshford 9/6/17. Particulars of Children: Nil. ¹⁰

Percy Harry Doel, b. Minchinhampton, Gloucestershire, Resided: Freshford, Somerset, Nationality: British, Date of Death: 28/3/1918 Killed in Action ¹¹, Rank Private, Service No.: 242155, Duty Location: France & Flanders, Regiment: Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment), 6th Battalion. ¹²

6th (Service) Battalion 14.08.1914 Formed at Maidstone as part of the First New Army (K1) and then moved to Colchester to join the 37th Brigade of the 12th Division and then moved to Purfleet. Feb 1915 Moved to Aldershot. 01.06.1915 Mobilised for war and landed at Boulogne and engaged in

various actions on the Western Front including; During 1915 The Battle of Loos. During 1916 The Battle of Albert, The Battle of Pozieres, The Battle of Le Transloy. During 1917 The First Battle of the Scarpe, The Battle of Arleux, The Third Battle of the Scarpe, The Cambrai operations. During 1918 The Battle of Bapaume, The First Battle of Arras 1918, The Battle of Amiens, The Battle of Albert, The Battle of Epehy, The Battle of the St Quentin canal, The Final Advance in Artois. 11.11.1918 Ended the war in France, Lecelles N.W. of St. Amand. ¹³

1918 **Doel, Percy Harry** Rank: Private, Date of Death: 28/03/1918 Regiment: Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment) Service Country: United Kingdom, Memorial Panel 58 and 59 Pozieres Memorial. ^{14, 15}

1918 Memo dated 1 Oct 1918 from War Office Articles belonging to **Percy Harry Doel** 6th Bn Royal Kent Regiment should be despatched to Mrs A F Doel, Park Corner, Freshford Nr Bath. Medals etc should be disposed of to the above. ¹⁶

1918 Memo dated 20 Oct 1918 to Officer in Charge of Records, Hounslow. Particulars:- Name Ada Florence Doel Address Park Corner, Freshford, Somerset Relationship Widow Rate of Allowance paid:- Separation Allowance 12s/6d Date to which allowances will be paid 20 Oct 1918. ¹⁷ Memo dated 10 Sep 1918 from Ministry of Pensions 1663 RW Kent W3 Sir, I am directed by the Minister of Pensions to inform you that the widow of No. 242155 Pte **P H Doel** Royal West Kent has been awarded a pension of 13/9 a week for herself with effect from the 21-10-18. The Officer issuing Separation Allowance has been informed of the award. The Pension will be paid from the Pension Issue Office. The certificates received in support of the application have been returned to the widow. Signed Officer in charge of Records Hounslow 2. ¹⁸

1919 Regiment: Royal West Kent 242155 Pte **Doel Percy H** deceased. Statement of the Names and Addresses of all Relatives of the above-named deceased Soldier in each degree specified below that are now living. Widow of the Soldier: Ada Florence Doel 37 Harriet Street Derby. Children of the Soldier: None, Father of the Soldier: Jesse Doel Burleigh, Brimscombe, Gos. Mother of the Soldier: Fanny Doel Burleigh, Brimscombe, Gos. Brothers of the Soldier: Albert Edward Doel age 3331 Bristol St, Largs Fleet, Middlesborough. Frank Joseph Doel age 30 Lowns Carn, Nr Dursley, Gos. Wilfred John Doel age 24 Box, Minchinhampton, Gos. George Stewart Doel age 21 Burleigh, Brimscombe, Gos. Denis William Doel age 10 Burleigh, Brimscombe, Gos.. Sisters of the Soldier: Lily May Williams age 29 "Station Cottage" Bishop Cleeve, Gos., Annie Adsett age 28 Burleigh, Brimscombe, Gos, Amy Lucy Click age 27 Burleigh, Brimscombe, Gos.. Declaration that the above is a true and complete Statement of all the Relatives of the late Soldier now [living and the] degrees enquired for. Ada Florence Doel Widow 37 Harriet Street Derby. [Witnessed] Derby 29 Dec 1919.[A] V. Hicks Minister. ¹⁹

Post War

1920 Letter Address 35, Church Street, Ebbw Vale, S. Wales. Sir. I thank you for the Scroll etc. I received in respect of my late husband Pte **P H Dole**. I am Yours Faithfully Ada F Doel. ²⁰

1952 Death of Ada F Doel age 67 registered Pontypridd, Glamorganshire. ²¹

¹ Plaque on Freshford Village war memorial sited on the village Tynning.

² England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index: 1837-1983 for Stroud, Gloucestershire for Apr-May-Jun 1894 Vol 6a Page 318.

³ 1901 England Census RG13/2441 Stroud, Minchinhampton 1 Page 10 Schedule 76.

⁴ 1911 England & Wales Census RG14/15394 Stroud, Minchinhampton 5 Schedule 139.

⁵ 1891 England Census RG12/1930 Bath, Twerton 17 Folio 145 Page 9 Schedule 53.

⁶ 1911 England & Wales Census RG14/ 14681 Bath, Twerton 18 Schedule 63.

⁷ Certified Copy of an Entry of Marriage given at the General Register Office on 6th Day August 2014.

⁸ England & Wales Marriage Index: 1916-2005 for Bath, Somerset for Apr-May-Jun 1917 Vol 5c Page 929.

⁹ British Army WWI Service Records, 1914-1920. War Office: Soldiers' Documents, First World War 'Burnt Documents' (Microfilm Copies); The National Archives Microfilm Publication WO363. Service Record.

¹⁰ British Army WWI Service Records, 1914-1920. War Office: Soldiers' Documents, First World War 'Burnt Documents' (Microfilm Copies); The National Archives Microfilm Publication WO363. Record of next of Kin on Marriage.

¹¹ First Battle of Arras (28 Mar 1918) Ref: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arras_1918_\(Battle_honour\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arras_1918_(Battle_honour)).

¹² <https://www.forces-war-records.co.uk/1929543>.

¹³ <https://www.forces-war-records.co.uk/1929543>.

¹⁴ Pozieres Memorial, France, Somme. Pozieres is a village 6 kilometres north-east of the town of Albert. The Memorial encloses Pozieres British Cemetery which is a little south-west of the village on the north side of the main road, D929, from Albert to Pozieres. On the road frontage is an open arcade terminated by small buildings and broken in the middle by the entrance and gates. Along the sides and the back, stone tablets are fixed in the stone rubble walls bearing the names of the dead grouped under their Regiments. The POZIERES MEMORIAL relates to the period of crisis in March and April 1918 when the Allied Fifth Army was driven back by overwhelming numbers across the former Somme battlefields, and the months that followed before the Advance to Victory, which began on 8 August 1918. The Memorial commemorates over 14,000 casualties of the United Kingdom and 300 of the South African Forces who have no known grave and who died on the Somme from 21 March to 7 August 1918.

¹⁵ Commonwealth War Graves Commission Index on line

¹⁶ British Army WWI Service Records, 1914-1920. War Office: Soldiers' Documents, First World War 'Burnt Documents' (Microfilm Copies); The National Archives Microfilm Publication WO363. Memo dated 24 Apr 1918.

¹⁷ British Army WWI Service Records, 1914-1920. War Office: Soldiers' Documents, First World War 'Burnt Documents' (Microfilm Copies); The National Archives Microfilm Publication WO363. Separation Allowance Memo.

¹⁸ British Army WWI Service Records, 1914-1920. War Office: Soldiers' Documents, First World War 'Burnt Documents' (Microfilm Copies); The National Archives Microfilm Publication WO363. Pensions Memo.

¹⁹ British Army WWI Service Records, 1914-1920. War Office: Soldiers' Documents, First World War 'Burnt Documents' (Microfilm Copies); The National Archives Microfilm Publication WO363. Relatives of Soldier.

²⁰ British Army WWI Service Records, 1914-1920. War Office: Soldiers' Documents, First World War 'Burnt Documents' (Microfilm Copies); The National Archives Microfilm Publication WO363. Letter dated 27 Jul 1920.

²¹ Ancestry.com. England & Wales, Death Index: 1916-2005 for Pontypridd, Glamorganshire for Dec 1952 Vol 8b Page 502.