

THE FALLEN OF SUTTON-IN-CRAVEN



PERCY OVEREND

DUKE OF WELLINGTON REGIMENT

KILLED IN ACTION 31ST AUGUST 1918

BORN IN 1896 AT SUTTON-IN-CRAVEN, THE SON OF
HEATON AND MARY OVEREND

Overend Family History

- **1891 census** shows Heaton, his wife Mary Ann and their son Albert living at Ellers Rd, Sutton-in-Craven as follows:

Name	Age	Work	Birth place	Birth year
Heaton (Head)	32	Iron moulder	Sutton-in-Craven	1859 - 1898
Mary Ann (wife)	35		Steeton	1856 - 1913
Albert	1		Sutton-in-Craven	1890

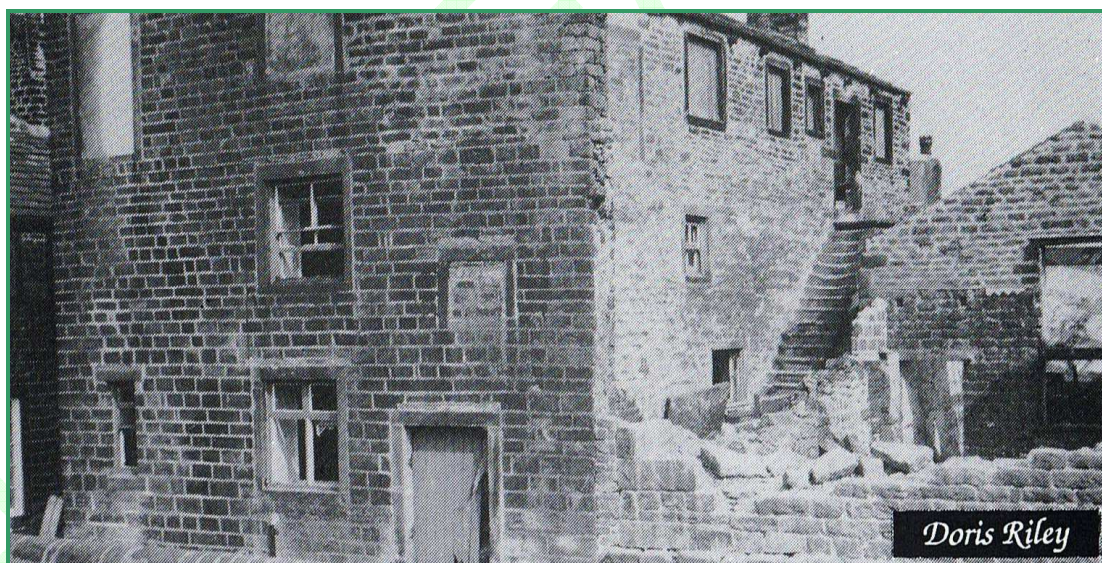


Dow well, Ellers Rd, Sutton-in-Craven
(source: Rachel Simpson & Richard Whiteoak from the Glyn Whiteoak collection)

NOTE: Percy Overend's parents Heaton and Mary Ann were married in the Oct/Nov/Dec quarter of 1885 in the Keighley district. Heaton died in the Oct/Nov/Dec quarter of 1898 in the Keighley district aged 39 yrs.

- **1901 census** shows Mary Ann Overend now widowed, living with her 3 children at the Gardener's Arms Public House, Sutton-in-Craven as follows:

Name	Age	Work	Birth place	Birth year
Mary Ann (Widow)	45	Beer House Pub Keeper	Steeton	1856 - 1913
Albert	11		Sutton-in-Craven	1890
Susannah	9		Sutton-in-Craven	1892
Percy	5		Sutton-in-Craven	1896 - 1918



Gardener's Arms, Sutton-in-Craven
(source: *Owd Settings Sutton-in-Craven 1991* by Doris Riley)

- **1911 census** shows Mary Ann Overend widowed and that of her 4 children born alive, 3 were still living and 1 had since died. It also shows the Overend family now residing at 11, Elm Rd, Sutton-in-Craven as follows:

Name	Age	Work	Birth place	Birth year
Mary Ann (Widow)	55		Steeton	1856 - 1913
Albert	21	Tailor maker manager	Sutton-in-Craven	1890
Susannah	19	Mender	Sutton-in-Craven	1892
Percy	15	Farm labourer	Sutton-in-Craven	1896 - 1918



Elm Rd, Sutton-in-Craven

(source: Rachel Simpson & Richard Whiteoak from the Glyn Whiteoak collection)

World War 1



It had been **99 years** since Britain was last involved in a major European conflict following the defeat of Napoleon at the Battle of Waterloo in 1815

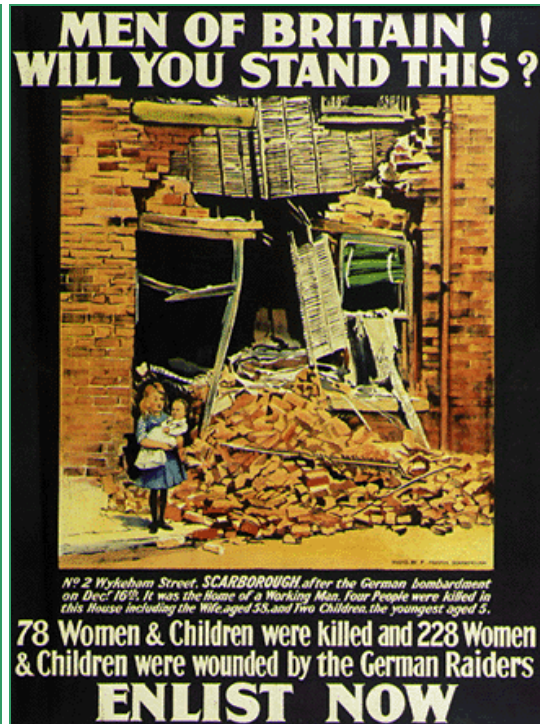
August 4th 1914 **Britain declares war on Germany**

In the autumn of 1914, the young men of the nation came from town and village to take the King's shilling and to offer him their dedicated services in defence of their homeland. From mills and mines, from shops and farms, from office chairs and civic departments, from loom, lathe, bench, plough and counter they flooded into the recruiting centres in answer to their nation's call for young manhood. These new recruits came to be known as **'Kitchener's Volunteers'**

The New Armies: "Kitchener's Volunteers"



Earl Kitchener recruitment poster 1914



Parliamentary Recruiting Committee
London, 1915



British volunteers are taken in double-deckers to their training places, 1914. These men would form Kitchener's New Army (source: *The Bradford Pals* Ralph N. Hudson 2nd Ed, 1993)

Prior to enlistment, Percy Overend was employed as a horseman by Sir John Cousin Horsfall & sons of Hayfield Mills, Glusburn.

Following the death of their mother in 1913, Percy and his sister Susannah were now living together in Main Street, Sutton-in-Craven.



Main Street, Sutton Mill

(source: Rachel Simpson & Richard Whiteoak from the Glyn Whiteoak collection)

During the Great War, Percy Overend responded to the call and volunteered to enlist into the 2/6th battalion Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) which was formed at Skipton in September 1914. His regimental number was 267092 and he commenced with the rank of Private.

The West Riding Regiment raised 24 battalions during WW1 including the 2/6th (Territorial Force) battalion which was formed as a home service (second line) unit.



WW1 Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) Cap Badge

Officers of 2/6th West Riding Regiment group photo

2/6th DUKE OF WELLINGTON'S WEST RIDING REGIMENT.



LEFT TO RIGHT. Back Row, standing.—Capt. G. H. Ermen (deceased), 2nd Lieut. (now Capt.) N. Geldard, D.S.O., M.C., 2nd Lieut. (now Capt.) L. Jaques, 2nd Lieut. W. Woodhead, Lieut. N. Clapham, 2nd Lieut. W. K. Law, 2nd Lieut. G. L. Lupton, Lieut. (now Capt.) G. Broughton, 2nd Lieut. G. R. Armstrong, Lieut. (A/Capt.) C. D. Bennett (K.), Capt. C. P. Charlesworth.
Sitting.—Capt. N. C. Prince (K.), Capt. (A/Lt.-Col.) N. A. England, D.S.O., Major W. Claughton (deceased), Major (A/Lt.-Col.) J. Mackillop, Col. R. E. Williamson, V.D. (C.O.), Major E. Dewhurst, Capt. Birbeck (Adj.), Capt. J. Groves.
Front row.—2nd Lieut. J. R. Walker, 2nd Lieut. (now Capt.) R. C. Barrett, 2nd Lieut. C. G. C. Kilner, Lieut. and Quarter-Master M. J. McDermott, 2nd Lieut. (now Capt.) G. C. Foulds.

(source: *Craven's Part in the Great War* original 1919 copy owned by Andrew Monkhouse)

Pte Percy Overend entered the Theatre of War in France in January 1917 with the 2/6th Territorial Force battalion West Riding Regiment, as part of the 62nd (2nd West Riding) Division.

Name.	Corps.	Rank.	Regt. No.
OVEREND	WR R	Pte	267092
Percy			
Medal.	Roll.	Page.	Remarks.
VICTORY	0/2/101 B22	4091	
BRITISH	do	do	
STAR			
Theatre of War first served in			
Date of entry therein			

K. 1980

MEDAL INDEX CARD for Percy Overend (source: *The National Archives*)

The Western Front 1918



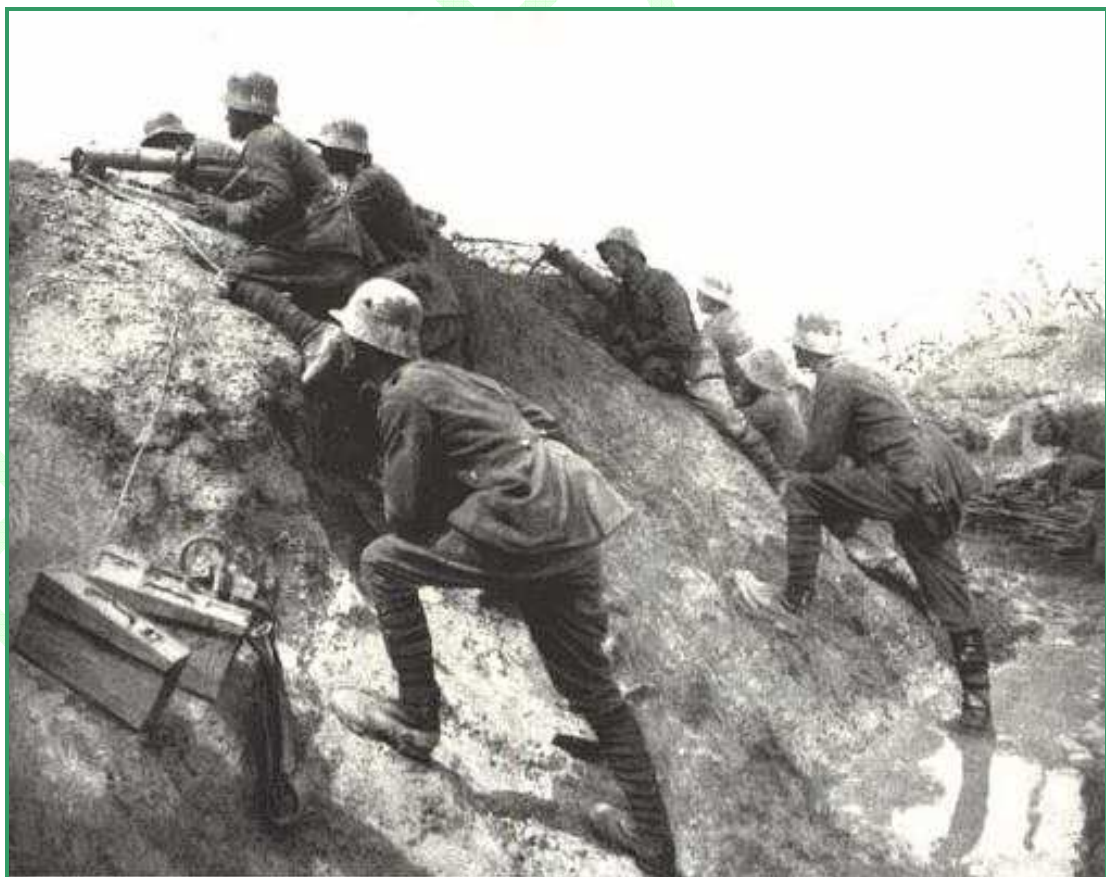
No Mans land, WW1

The Western Front was marked by a system of trenches and fortifications separated by an area known as No Man's land. These fortifications stretched 475 miles and precipitated a style of fighting known as trench warfare.

However, it was the Russian Revolution in 1917 that finally changed the nature of the deadlock and war of attrition in the west. Once the fighting had halted in the east, it allowed the Germans to transfer many Divisions to the Western Front. They knew that time was running out, for the United States of America had entered the war on the Allied side and it was only a matter of time before vast untapped reserves of manpower swung the balance in the favour of the Allies.

On the 11th November 1917, the German High Command decided to make a decisive attack in the west in the following spring. Their target was the British Army. They believed that the British were exhausted by the four major efforts in 1917 (Arras, Messines, Passchendaele and Cambrai).

By mid-February 1918, the Germans had moved many Divisions from the now collapsed eastern front to the west in preparation for this major spring offensive.



German soldiers waiting to attack, WW1

By the spring of 1918, the Allies knew that there would be a major German attack; they just did not know when it would come. The British reinforced their positions near the coast while the French strengthened their positions to the south of the British.

The German army struck a number of large-scale, last-ditch offensives throughout the spring and summer months of 1918, until the manpower advantage enjoyed by Germany would be gone as the American forces slowly built up to strength. By November 1918, their exhausted efforts forced the Germans to call for an Armistice.



German attack, 1918

Pte Percy Overend was **Killed in Action** on the 31st August 1918 after his battalion along with the Canadians took part in a big advance in front of Arras. He was initially listed as **Missing in Action** with 2 letters of communication being sent to Percy's sister Susannah from the War Office and from the Records Office stating that Pte Percy Overend had been posted as missing since the 31st August 1918.

He was 23 years of age

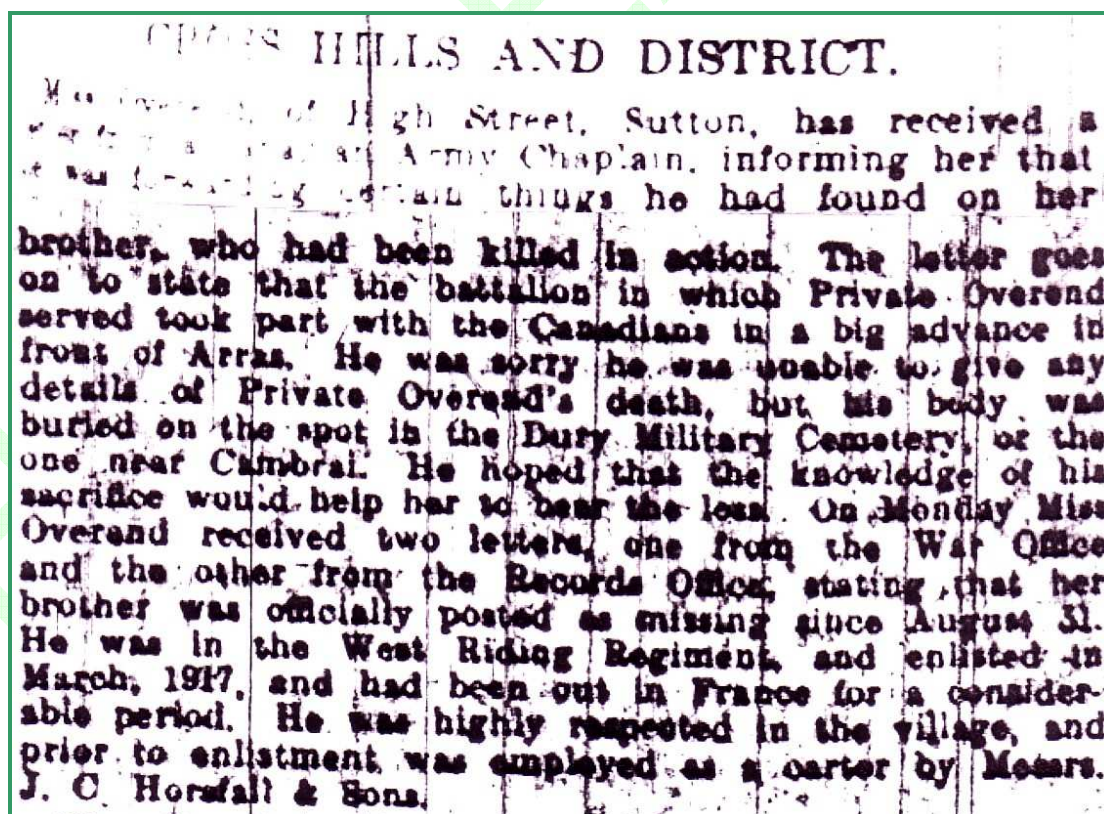


Article Date: 04 October 1918

Sutton Private Missing

Mrs. Overend, of Main Street, has received a communication which has given her grave doubts concerning her brother, Pte. Percy Overend, of the W.R. Regiment. On Monday she received an official report from the War Office stating that her brother had been missing since Aug. 31st. Her last letter from him was written on Aug. 27th. Prior to joining the Forces, Pte. Overend was employed as horseman by Sir John Horsfall. His elder brother, Pte. Albert Overend, is also serving. The two young men are the sons of the late Mr. and Mrs. Heaton Overend.

(source: *Craven's Part in the Great War* www.cpgw.org.uk)



Keighley News extract (source: photocopied by Josie Walsh)



Article Date: 04 October 1918

SUTTON - Private Percy Overend Missing

Miss Overend of Main Street, Sutton, has received a letter from an Army Chaplain with the Canadian Forces, informing her that he was sending on certain articles which he had found on the body of her brother, Private Percy Overend. His Battalion was taking part with the Canadians in a big advance in front of Arras. He was sorry he was unable to give any details of the death, but his body was buried on the spot, in the Dury military cemetery or the one near Cambrai. He hoped that the knowledge of the lad's sacrifice might help her to bear her great loss. On Monday of this week Miss Overend received two communications, one from the War Office and the other from the Records Office, stating that Private Percy Overend had been posted as missing since the 31st of August. Hopes are therefore entertained concerning him. At the time of enlistment he was employed as a carrier by J.C. Horsfall and Sons.

(source: *Craven's Part in the Great War* www.cpgw.org.uk)

VIS-EN-ARTOIS MEMORIAL



(source: *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* www.cwgc.org/)

The Vis-en-Artois Memorial bears the names of 9,850 men including the name of Pte Percy Overend who fell in the period from the 8th August 1918 to the date of the Armistice in Picardy and Artois, between the Somme and Loos, and who have no known grave.

They belonged to the forces of Great Britain, Ireland and South Africa. The Canadian, Australian & New Zealand forces are commemorated on other memorials to the missing.

The Vis-en-Artois Memorial consists of a screen wall in three parts. The middle part of the screen wall is concave and carries stone panels on which names are carved. It was designed by J.R. Truelove, sculptured by Ernest Gillick and unveiled by the Rt. Hon. Thomas Shaw on the 4th August 1930.

Pte Percy Overend is also remembered on the Sutton-in-Craven war memorial.



Casualty Details

Name: OVEREND, PERCY

Initials: P

Nationality: United Kingdom

Rank: Private

Regiment/Service: Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment)

Unit Text: 2nd Bn.

Age: 23

Date of Death: 31/08/1918

Service No: 267092

Additional information: Son of Heaton and Mary Ann Overend, of 20, High St., Sutton-in-Craven, Keighley, Yorks.

Casualty Type: Commonwealth War Dead

Grave/Memorial Reference: Panel 6.

Memorial: VIS-EN-ARTOIS MEMORIAL

(source: *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* www.cwgc.org/)

WAR MEMORIAL, SUTTON-IN-CRAVEN PARK



(source: *South Craven, the official guide*, 1950)



Sutton-in-Craven War Memorial (photo taken by Paul Wilkinson)

Pte Percy Overend was posthumously awarded the
British War Medal & Victory Medal



Original pair of WW1 medals (source: owned by Andrew Monkhouse)

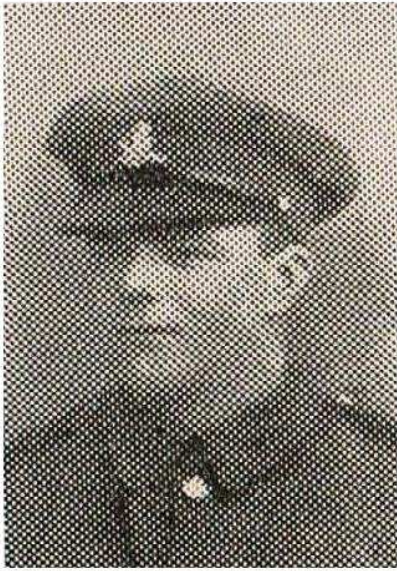
A Memorial Plaque inscribed with the soldiers name was also given to the family of those who were killed during WW1



Original WW1 Memorial Plaque (name digitally altered)
Also referred to as a Death Plaque or Dead Man's Penny
(source: owned by Andrew Monkhouse)

Lest we Forget

CRAVEN'S ROLL OF HONOUR



PRIVATE PERCY OVEREND, Duke of Well.'s Regt.,
of Main Street, Sutton, killed in action 31st
August, 1918.

source: *Craven's Part in the Great War*

(Original 1919 copy owned by Andrew Monkhouse)

FOR THE FALLEN

*THEY SHALL NOT GROW OLD, AS WE THAT ARE
LEFT GROW OLD*

*AGE SHALL NOT WEARY THEM, NOR THE YEARS
CONDEMN*

*AT THE GOING DOWN OF THE SUN AND IN THE
MORNING*

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

LAURENCE BINYON, 1869-1943



(Information compiled by Andrew Monkhouse 2011)