

Sutton Mandeville

War Graves



Lest we Forget

World War I

L/19869 GUNNER

R. T. PERKS

ROYAL FIELD ARTILLERY

26TH NOVEMBER, 1915 AGE 23



To Memory Ever Dear

Richard Thomas PERKS

Richard Thomas Perks was born in Sheffield according to UK Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914 – 1919 (published in 1921 by authority of the War Office). However, a search for births for “Richard Perks” between 1890 & 1893 anywhere in the country only brings up a birth for a Richard George Perks at Gloucester or a Richard Perks, birth registered in the September quarter 1892, in the district of Wolstanton, Staffordshire. Based on information contained in the 1901 & 1911 Census the Richard Perks born at Wolstanton, Staffordshire is located in Sheffield in the 1901 & 1911 Census. It could be that Richard Perks was born at Staffordshire but moved to Sheffield as a young child without knowing he was born in Staffordshire.

The 1901 Census listed Richard Perks (born Brindley Ford, Staffordshire) as an 8 year old living with his family at 627 Attercliffe Common, Sheffield in a 4 roomed dwelling. His parents were listed as George Perks (General Labourer, aged 38, born Brindley Ford, Staffordshire) & Mary Ann Perks (aged 29, born Dudley Ford, Staffordshire). Richard was the eldest of 4 children listed in this Census – Richard, George Thomas (aged 5, born Brindley Ford, Staffordshire), Betty (aged 7, born Brindley Ford, Staffordshire) & Phoebe (aged 3, born Brindley Ford, Staffordshire). The family had 4 Boarders living with them – George Lockett (Steel & Iron Roller, aged 17), George Ellman (Blacksmith, aged 45), Rueben Jones (General Labourer, aged 29) & William Wallace (General Labourer- Iron Works, aged 25).

The 1911 Census listed Richard Thomas Perks as an 18 year old Puddler (Iron Manufacturing) living with his family at 435 Attercliffe Common, Sheffield in a 6 roomed dwelling. His parents were listed as George Thomas Perks (Puddler – Iron Manufacturing, aged 48) & Mary Ann Perks (aged 38). Richard’s parents had been married for 20 years & had 5 children, all living. Richard was the eldest of 5 children listed in this Census – Richard, Betty (Helper at Home, aged 17), George Thomas (Mill Hand, aged 15), Phoebe (Helper at Home, aged 13) & Brownlow William Perks (aged 2).

A marriage was registered in the December quarter, 1914 in the district of Sheffield, Yorkshire between Richard T. Perks & Alice Miller.

A birth was registered in June quarter, 1915 for George T. Perks in the district of Sheffield with the mother’s maiden name of Miller.

Richard Thomas Perks enlisted with the Royal Horse Artillery & Royal Field Artillery at Sheffield, Yorks. He was given the Serial number of L/19869. CWGC records show that Gunner Richard Thomas Perks was attached to 164th Brigade, Royal Field Artillery.

The 164th Brigade was part of Kitchener’s New Armies & was part of 31st Division from formation in April-May 1915. It was a predominantly a Northern Division, with most units originating in Lancashire or Yorkshire - hence the use of the red and white roses in the Divisional symbol. In most cases commencing

training near home, the units were moved to concentrate at South Camp at Ripon in April and May 1915. There were severe shortages of arms, ammunition and much equipment. It was not until September that the Division moved for final training and firing practice at Fovant on Salisbury Plain in Wiltshire.

In late November 1915, the Division received a warning order to prepare to sail for France. Advance parties began to depart. But on 2 December final orders were received that the Division would go to Egypt, accompanied by the artillery of 32nd Division. Its own artillery would join 32nd Division in France.

Gunner Richard Thomas Perks died on 26th November, 1915.

A death for Richard T. Perks, aged 25, was registered in the December quarter, 1915 in the district of Wilton, Wiltshire, England.

Gunner Richard Thomas Perks was buried at Sutton Mandeville Churchyard. His death is acknowledged by Commonwealth War Graves Commission & as such he has a CWGC headstone. The CWGC lists Gunner Richard Thomas Perks, L/19869 of 164th Brigade, Royal Field Artillery as the husband of Alice Perks of 60 Newcastle Street, Sheffield.



All Saints Church & Churchyard

(Photo by Neil MacDougall 2011)

Photo of Gunner R. T. Perks' CWGC Headstone in Sutton Mandeville Churchyard.



(Photos by Antony Firth 2014)



Two World War 1 Headstones located in Churchyard

(front 2 headstones – Gunner R. T. Perks on left)