Percy Ernest Fray was born on 11th November 1897, at 13 Peter Street, Folkestone, to Walter Fray and Amelia Jane Fray nee' Goble. He attended St. Peters School, on the Durlocks. He enlisted into the Buffs (East Kent Regiment) at Shorncliffe on September 19th, 1913. He was then sent to Canterbury to join 1st Btn Buffs. for training.
He was one of the many Soldiers who marched down the Road of Remembrance, his two sisters Ivy and Jesse watched as he marched down the road, and said, he looked so proud. He would have seen his old school overlooking the Harbour as the ship sailed for France. L/1004 L/Cpl Percy Fray, was wounded in action on October 13th, 1915, while bomb throwing in Flanders, he died from his wounds on October 14th, 1915. He was in charge of the bomb throwers, and had been at the front for nearly a year.
He had been recommended for the Distinguished Conduct Medal. (DCM) He was just 18 years old.
Percy’s name can be seen on the St. Peters Church, Roll of Honour and his grave is located at Poperinge Military Cemetery, Deken de Bolaan, Belgium.

1911 Census

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name:</th>
<th>Percy Fray</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age in 1911:</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated birth year:</td>
<td>abt 1898</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relation to Head:</td>
<td>Son</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender:</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birth Place:</td>
<td>Folkestone, Kent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civil Parish:</td>
<td>Folkestone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County/Island:</td>
<td>Kent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Country:</td>
<td>England</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Street address:</td>
<td>25 Thanet Gardens, Folkestone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marital Status:</td>
<td>Single</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occupation:</td>
<td>House Boy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registration district:</td>
<td>Elham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registration District Number:</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub-registration district:</td>
<td>Folkestone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Age</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------</td>
<td>-----</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walter Fray</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jane Fray</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percy Fray</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Fray</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walter Fray</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ivy Fray</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jesse Fray</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Fray</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Fray</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Regimental Records**

**Buffs (East Kent Regiment) during World War 1**

The Regiment raised 14 Battalions and was awarded 48 battle honours and 1 Victoria cross, losing 6,000 men during the course of the First World War.

1st Battalion
04.08.1914 Stationed at Fermoy as part of the 16th Brigade of the 6th Division.
19.08.1914 Moved to Cambridge.
10.09.1914 Mobilised for war and landed at St Nazaire and engaged in various actions on the Western Front including;
1914
The actions on the Aisne heights.
1915
The action at Hooge.

1916
1917
The Battle of Hill 70, The Cambrai operations.
1918

11.11.1918 Ended the war at Bohain, France
Medal Index Card
SERVICE RECORDS

The majority of service records for individual soldiers were destroyed by a German air raid in 1940. Those that survive are often in a damaged condition, and known as ‘Burnt Records’. The records for Percy Fray have survived and are featured below.

[Image of a historical document]
ARMY RESERVE. (SPECIAL RESERVISTS.)
3 YEARS SERVICE.

ATTESTATION OF SERVICE.

No. 1.
Name of Recruit: Henry Ernest Ray.

1. What is your Name? Henry Ernest Ray.
2. In or near what Parish or Town were you born? New York.
3. Are you a British Subject? Yes.
4. What is your Age? 18 years.
5. What is your Trade or Calling? Farmer.
6. Have you resided out of your Father's house for three years continuously in the same place, or occupied a house or land of the yearly value of £10 for one year, and paid rates for the same, and in other respects, if so, state where? No.

You are hereby warned that if after enlistment it is found that you have given a wilfully false answer to any of the following seven questions, you will be liable to imprisonment with hard labour.

7. Are you, or have you been, an Apprentice? No.
8. Are you Married? Yes.
9. Have you ever been sentenced to Penal Servitude or to Transportation? No.
10. Do you now belong to the Royal Navy, the Army, the Royal Marines, the Militia, the Special Reserve, the Territorial Force, the Army Reserve, the Militia Reserve, or any Naval Reserve Force? No.
11. Have you ever served in the Royal Navy, the Army, the Royal Marines, the Militia, the Special Reserve, the Territorial Force, the Imperial Yeomanry, the Volunteers, the Army Reserve, the Militia Reserve, or any Naval Reserve Force? No.
12. Have you truly stated the whole, if any, of your previous service? Yes.
13. Have you ever been rejected as unfit for the Military or Naval Forces of the Crown? No.
14. Are you willing to be vaccinated or re-vaccinated? Yes.
15. Are you willing to be attested to serve in the

National Reserve?

Yes.
16. Did you receive a notice, and do you understand its meaning, and who gave it to you? Yes.
17 (a). Are you aware that you are liable to be called out or detailed for general service in time of public danger? Yes.
17 (b). Are you aware that if so called out you will be liable to be detained in Army Service for the unexpired portion of your term of service in the Army Reserve and for a further period not exceeding 12 months if so directed by the competent Military Authority? Yes.
17 (c). Are you aware that you will not be permitted, while serving in the Special Reserve, to join the Royal Navy or Royal Marines, nor while serving in the Special Reserve of the Royal Field Artillery, or any Veterinary Corps, to join the Regular Army, or to transfer to any other branch of the Special Reserve, nor while serving in the Special Reserve of the Army Service Corps, or Royal Army Medical Corps, to serve in any other branch of the Special Reserve?

I, Henry Ernest Ray, do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and that I am willing to fulfil the engagement made.

Signature of Recruit.

Sacrificed to the draft.

OATH TO BE TAKEN BY RECRUIT ON ATTESTATION.

I, Henry Ernest Ray, do make Oath, that I will be faithful and bear true Allegiance to His Majesty King George the Fifth, His Heirs, and Successors, and that I will, as in duty bound, honestly and faithfully defend His Majesty, His Heirs, and Successors, in Person, Crown, and Dignity against all enemies, and will observe and obey all orders of His Majesty, His Heirs, and Successors, and of the Generals and Officers set over me.

Certificate of Magistrate or Attesting Officer.

The Recruit above named was cautioned by me that he made any false answer to any of the above questions he would be liable to be punished as provided in the Army Act.

The above questions were then read to the recruit in my presence.

I have taken care that he understands each question, and that his answer to each question has been duly entered.

I have also advised him to sign the declaration and take the oath before me at

Worcester, on the 3rd day of April, 1913.

Signature of the Justice.

If any alteration is required on this page of the Attestation, a Justice of the Peace should be consulted under Section 29 (b) Army Act.

The Recruit should, if he requires it, receive a copy of the Declaration on Army Form 30a.
Description of
on Enlistment.

Distinctive marks, and marks indicating congenital peculiarities or previous disease.
(Should the Medical Officer be of opinion that the recruit has served before, he will, unless the man acknowledges to any previous service, attach a slip to that effect, for the information of the approving Officer.)

Scar on side of face

Height ............... 5 ft. 5½ ins.
Weight ............... 126½ lbs.
Chest and shoulder:
(Girth or fully expanded) 39½ ins.
(Range of expansion) 2 ins.

Eyes .................................................. Blue

Hair .................................................. Dark Brown.

Church of England 
Presbyterian
Wesleyan
Baptist or Congregationalist
Other Protestants
(Religion to be stated.)
Roman Catholic
Jewish

Certificate of Medical Examination.

I have examined the above-named recruit and find that he does not present any of the causes of rejection specified in the Regulations for the Army Medical Service.

He can see at the required distance with either eye: his heart and lungs are healthy: he has the free use of his joints and limbs, and he declares that he is not subject to any of them.

I consider him * fit  for the Army Reserve.

Date 3.3.1918

K. B. BOWIS

Certificate of Primary Military Examination.

I hereby certify that the above-named recruit was inspected by me and I consider him fit for service in the The Buffs (Ebor. Regt.) S.R. and that due care has been exercised in his enlistment.

Date 3rd April 1918

Place Shoreham

S. W. THOMAS

Certificate of Approving Officer.

I certify that this Attestation of the above-named recruit is correct, and properly filled up, and that the required forms appear to have been complied with. I accordingly approve, and appoint him to the Buffs.

If enlisted by special authority, Army Form B. 203 (or other authority for the enlistment) will be attached to the original attestation.

Date 14-1-1918

Place

* The signature of the Approving Officer is to be affixed in the presence of the Recruit.
* Insert here "fit" or " unfit."
* "Insert the "Regiment" or "Corps."

* Certificate of Approving Officer.
Officer Commanding

3rd Bn. The Buffs

Please note that No. 10471, Lieut. E. Lay
of the battalion under your command was attested on the 19th day of
August 1913, and finally approved on the 25th day of
August 1913, for the Buffs
Regiment, and sent to join his new Corps stationed at
Dublin.

2. Would you please complete the attestation now in your possession and
forward the same, together with this form, to the Officer in charge of the
Records at S.A. officers for future custody.

Please acknowledge receipt of this communication on perforated slip
below.

Station

Commanding

Date 20-8-13

Commanding 3rd Bn. The Buffs

Approving Officer.

He is, as far as I am aware, an eligible candidate for enlistment, as stated
above. His description on enlistment into this Corps on
1913 was as follows:

Age 17 years, 5 months.
Height 5 ft 7 inches.
Chest measurement 33 inches.
Complexion

Eye

Hair

Station Commanding 3rd Bn. The Buffs

Date 20-8-13

Distinctive Marks.

Scar left side of face
Urgent.

Applicable to men now belonging to the Special Reserve or Territorial Force.

(1)

Officer Commanding

3rd Bn. The Buffs Regiment.

I beg to inform you that No. 10471 (Name) Pte. F. E. Tray of the Battalion under your command has applied to be enlisted into The Buffs. I would therefore be glad if you would fill in the form below, giving description and character, and forward to me by return of post.

Should he hereafter be finally approved you will be notified accordingly.

Station

 Canterbury

Date 20-8-13

Recruiting Officer

Commanding 3rd Bn. D. Infantry

(2)

Recruiting Officer,

 Canterbury

Reference to foregoing, I beg to inform you that No. 10471 Pte. F. E. Tray is now serving in the battalion under my command, and his character is very good.

He is, as far as I am aware, an eligible candidate for enlistment, as stated above. His description on enlistment into this Corps on 3rd April 1913, was as follows:—

Age 17 years, five months.
Height 5 ft. 5-1/2 inches.
Chest measurement 33 1/2 inches.
Complexion

Eyes Blue

Hair Dr. Brown

Station Canterbury

Date 20-8-13

Distinctive Marks.

Ear on left side of face.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Corps</th>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Promotions, Reductions, Casualties, &amp;c.</th>
<th>Bank</th>
<th>From</th>
<th>To</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Service towards engagement reckoned from 3.4.13

Attested

Discharged in consequence of Having enlisted into the army

The discharge of the above-named man is hereby approved.

Station

Date 25th August 1913

Total service towards engagement in Army Reserve to 18.8.13 (date of discharge) 157 years 157 days.

Character awarded on discharge: Very Good

*In the case of Annual Training it will be sufficient to state if "Present," or "Absent," and the year.*
Cumberland  97. 8. 13
in Rpp 10 attended  Pl.  19. 8. 13
2nd Ported  8th  11. 10. 13
2nd posted  11. 9. 14
attained 18 years  19. 11. 13
of age.
3rd appointed and act  8th  14. 9. 14
3rd posted  11. 9. 14
appointed unpaid  8th  7. 7. 15

Total Service 18 years
Death  16. 10. 15
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree of relationship</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Relationship to Soldier</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Widow of the Soldier</td>
<td>NaN</td>
<td>NaN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children of the Soldier</td>
<td>NaN</td>
<td>NaN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Father of the Soldier</td>
<td>John</td>
<td>NaN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mother of the Soldier</td>
<td>Walter,</td>
<td>NaN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Robert</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Richard</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brothers of the Soldier</td>
<td>NaN</td>
<td>NaN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Siblings of the Soldier</td>
<td>NaN</td>
<td>NaN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full Blood</td>
<td>Ivy</td>
<td>Married</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Half Blood</td>
<td>Jessie</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full Blood</td>
<td>NaN</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Half Blood</td>
<td>none</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If no relatives in the degrees above are now living, the following particulars should be given:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grandparents of the Soldier</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>none</td>
<td>NaN</td>
<td>NaN</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nephews and Nieces of the Soldier</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>John</td>
<td>Canada, B.C.</td>
<td>NaN</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Uncles and Aunts for blood of the Soldier (not Uncles and Aunts by marriage)</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>none</td>
<td>NaN</td>
<td>NaN</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Declaration:

I hereby declare that the above is a true and correct statement of all the relatives of the late soldier living in the degrees required for.

Signature of the Declarant:

Name: Jane Amelia Fry
Address: 12, Thames Gardens, Southside

I hereby certify that the above statement and declaration made by Jane Amelia Fry and signed in my presence is complete and correct, to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Dated at

Signature of the Minister of the Architecture:

Date: 11th Day of January, 1910

Qualification: J.P. for the Borough of Scarborough
The above page records that Percy was wounded on 13 October 1915 and that he died the following day.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Date of Offence</th>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Number X</th>
<th>OFFENCE</th>
<th>Number of Witnesses</th>
<th>Punishment awarded</th>
<th>Date of commutation granted</th>
<th>By whom awarded</th>
<th>REMARKS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>NWB</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Notes:**
- NWB
- Day and Night
- 14 days 6-65
- 7-100
- Inj
- 13 days 2-25
- 1-70
- 1-20
**Medical History**

**Surname**: Fury
**Christian Name**: Percy Ernest

**Table I. General Table.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Examine ...</th>
<th>Declared age ...</th>
<th>Trade or occupation</th>
<th>Height ...</th>
<th>Weight ...</th>
<th>Chest Girth when fully expanded ...</th>
<th>Measure ...</th>
<th>Range of Expansion ...</th>
<th>Physical development &amp; Pulse rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Right 88.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SPECIAL RESERVE.**

- On 30th day of April 1913
- At Shorncliffe
- 17 years 6 months
- Labourer
- 5 feet 6 inches
- 120 lbs.
- 33 1/2 inches
- 2 inches

**REGULAR ARMY.**

- On 13th day of Aug 1913
- At Shorncliffe
- 19 years 7 months
- Labourer
- 5 feet 6 inches
- 124 lbs.
- 33 1/2 inches
- 2 inches

**Vaccination marks**

- Right: 3.
- Left: 3.

**Vision**

- R.E. V= 6/6
- L.E. V= 6/6

- Scar (L) side 2 years

**Medical Officer**

- Signed: K. B. Bowell
- Medical Officer: Cpt. 17th

**Enlisted**

- On 3rd day of April 1913
- At Shorncliffe

**Joined on enlistment**

- Corp. 10471
- Regt. No. 10471

**Transferred to**

- Enlisting into the Regular Army
- On 19th day of August 1913
- Corp. 10471

**Medical Officer**

- Signed: J. B. Rawdon
- Medical Officer: Cpt. 17th
E.156 G 15 1 (Accounta 4.)

Will you please note that any articles of personal property now in your possession belonging to the late No.10041 Lance Corporal Percy Ernest Gray, 1st Bn. East Kent Regiment should be despatched to:

Mr John Gray
61 Bridge Street
Folkestone

Any medals granted to the deceased that are now in your possession or that may hereafter reach you should be forwarded to:

the same person

[Signature]

Assistant Financial Secretary.
IN. ANTRY RECORD OFFICE,
HOUNSLOE.

To

Mr. F. Gray
61, Bridge St.
Folkestone

Dear Madam,

In accordance with instructions received from the War Office, I am forwarding herewith the articles enumerated below, belonging to the late No. 16241.

(Rank) Sjt. (Name) P. E. Gray

(Regiment) 1st Bn. East Kent Regiment

- Shaving stick & brush
- Tooth brush
- 2 Razors
- Letters
- Tin box containing ornament & spinning wheel

Please acknowledge receipt in enclosed addressed envelope.

Yours faithfully,

[Signature]

[Handwritten note: "Lieut. for Colonel, 1/c Infantry Records, Hounslow.

To Jane Gray

Thanks the Government for returning her Son's belongings"]
INFANTRY RECORD OFFICE,
HOUNSLOW.

15. 3. 19

To Mrs J. Gray
5, Bridge St.
London.

Dear Mrs Gray,

In accordance with instructions received from the War Office, I am forwarding herewith the articles enumerated below, belonging to the late No. 183:

(Rank) Private

(Regiment) 5th Bn. East Lancs

Please acknowledge receipt in enclosed addressed envelope.

Yours faithfully,

[Signature]

6. Bridge Street

[Address]
Soldiers Died in the Great War

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Percy Ernest Fray</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Birth Place</td>
<td>St. Michael's, Folkestone, Kent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residence</td>
<td>Folkestone, Kent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death Date</td>
<td>14 Oct 1915</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death Location</td>
<td>France &amp; Flanders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enlistment Location</td>
<td>Folkestone, Kent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rank</td>
<td>L/Corporal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regiment</td>
<td>Buffs (East Kent Regiment)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Battalion</td>
<td>1st Battalion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number</td>
<td>L/10041</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type of Casualty</td>
<td>Died of wounds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theatre of War</td>
<td>Western European Theatre</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

POPERINGHE NEW MILITARY CEMETERY

Historical Information
The town of Poperinghe (now Poperinge) was of great importance during the First World War because, although occasionally bombed or bombarded at long range, it was the nearest place to Ypres (now Ieper) which was both considerable in size and reasonably safe. It was at first a centre for Casualty Clearing Stations, but by 1916 it became necessary to move these units further back and field ambulances took their places.

The earliest Commonwealth graves in the town are in the communal cemetery. The Old Military Cemetery was made in the course of the First Battle of Ypres and was closed, so far as Commonwealth burials are concerned, at the beginning of May 1915. The New Military Cemetery was established in June 1915.

The New Military Cemetery contains 677 Commonwealth burials of the First World War and 271 French war graves.

ASC men tending graves at Poperinghe 1917
With thanks to Trevor Robbie

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