

Percy was born in Hurstville, New South Wales in 1890, the son of Frederick Robert and Eliza Ann Bennett.

On 11th August Percy enlisted in A Coy of the AN&MEF and stated that he was a bus driver and single, giving his mother at Forest Road, Peakhurst as his next of kin.

He returned from Rabaul and was discharged, term expired, on 4th March 1915.



Studio Portrait taken in Sydney in 1915.

On 19th March 1915 he enlisted in the 17th Battalion, regimental number 402, and embarked on the THEMISTOCLES on 12th May 1915 for the Middle East.

On 26th July 1916, Percy was wounded at Pozieres. His Platoon Commander, Lieut Herbert George Mathews recalled –

“I knew Bennett; he was in A Co.11 Platoon under me. He was medium height, thickly built, fair and was called Paddy. He was wounded in a hand-to-hand bomb fight in Munster Alley just to the right of Pozieres in front of the Windmill, a continuation of O.C.I. He then climbed back into the trench laughing and was evidently taken to the Clearing Station on a stretcher. I had not heard that he had died until I saw your book. I recognised his number as 402. He was a very solid and good natured soldier and was always cheerful.”

In another report from the Wadsworth Hospital it was stated – “He was unconscious the last few days – his brother came the day after he died and was at the funeral. His brother has all particulars.” Percy had four brothers – Ernest, Arthur, Robert and Sydney. It is not known which visited him.

Percy died of his wounds – a gunshot wound to the skull and septic meningitis on 7th August 1916 and was buried at Wandsworth (Earlsfield) Cemetery.

He is remembered on Panel 82 at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra.