

Percy Pilling

26 May 1889 – 10 November 1945

Percy was born to parents Jacob Pilling and mother Mary (nee Peak) in Halliwell, Bolton on **26th May 1889**. Father Jacob's mother was Betsy Pilling who was also born in Halliwell in 1832.

Percy was baptised at St Peters, Halliwell, Bolton on **28 February 1890** by the Reverend J H Coghlan.

In **1891** the family were living at 66 Rushey Fold Lane (off Halliwell Road). Father Jacob was born in 1854 in Halliwell, Bolton and on the 1891 Census is shown as working as a 'Foreman Finisher, Cotton, in a Bleachworks'. Mother Mary was born in 1845, in Horwich, Bolton and was working as a 'Dressmaker'. Percy was recorded on the Census as aged 1. Also living with them was Ada Peak who was a niece on her mother's side of the family. She was working as a 'Cloth Weaver – Cott[on]' and was 21 years of age. She was born in Horwich.

In **1901** the family were living at 4 Park Cottages, 'Halliwell' (but off Smithills Deane Road). Father Jacob was employed as a 'Foreman Calico Bleachworks'. Mary was not shown as being employed. Percy was aged 11 years.

13/4/16

SHORT SERVICE.
(For the Duration of the War, with the Colours and in the Army Reserve).

Card No. _____

ATTESTATION OF
No. 39790 Name Percy Pilling Corps 4th Lancashire

Questions to be put to the Recruit before Enlistment.

1. What is your Name?	1. <u>Percy Pilling</u>
2. What is your full Address?	2. <u>222 Crescent Road, Bolton</u>
3. Are you a British Subject?	3. <u>Yes</u>
4. What is your Age?	4. <u>27</u> Years <u>13.0</u> Months <u>26.5</u> Days
5. What is your Trade or Calling?	5. <u>Cardroom Operative</u>
6. Are you Married?	6. <u>No</u>
7. Have you ever served in any branch of His Majesty's Forces, naval or military, if so, which?	7. <u>No</u>
8. Are you willing to be vaccinated or re vaccinated?	8. <u>Yes</u>
9. Are you willing to be enlisted for General Service?	9. <u>Yes</u>
10. Did you receive a Notice, and do you understand its meaning, and who gave it to you?	10. <u>Yes</u> Name <u>Sept. 1916</u> Corps <u>A.F.B.</u>
11. Are you willing to serve upon the following conditions provided His Majesty should so long require your services? For the duration of the War, at the end of which you will be discharged with all convenient speed. You will be required to serve for one day with the Colours and the remainder of the period in the Army Reserve, in accordance with the provisions of the Royal Warrant dated 20th Oct., 1915, until such time as you may be called up by order of the Army Council. If employed with Hospitals, depots of Mounted Units, or as a Clerk, etc., you may be retained after the termination of hostilities until your services can be spared, but such retention shall in no case exceed six months.	11. <u>Yes</u>

I, Percy Pilling do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and that I am willing to fulfil the engagements made.

Percy Pilling SIGNATURE OF RECRUIT.
J. M. [Signature] Signature of Witness.

OATH TO BE TAKEN BY RECRUIT ON ATTESTATION.
I swear by Almighty God, 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. So help me God.

CERTIFICATE OF MAGISTRATE OR ATTESTING OFFICER.
The Recruit above named was cautioned by me that if 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 as replied to, and the said Recruit has made and signed the declaration and taken the oath before me at 222 Crescent Road, Bolton on this 16 day of July 1916.

[Signature] Signature of the Justice.

† 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 4th Lancashire.
If enlisted by special authority, Army Form B. 205 (or other authority for the enlistment) will be attached to the original attestation.
Date 16/7/16 [Signature] Approving Officer.
Place [Signature]

The signature of the Approving Officer is to be affixed in the presence of the Recruit.
† Here insert the "Corps" for which the Recruit has been enlisted.
If, on the Recruit is to be asked the particulars of his former service, and to produce, if possible, his Certificate of Discharge and Certificate of Character, he should be referred to him conspicuously enclosed in red ink, as follows:—(When) _____ on the (Date) _____.

The family continued to live at 4 Park Cottages, Smithills (not Halliwell as previously recorded) as the 1911 Census shows. Their residence has 6 rooms. Percy is now 21 years old and working as a 'Fitter – Cotton Machinery'. Father Jacob has retired and shown as formerly a 'Bleachers Foreman'. Mary and Jacob are recorded as having been married 26 years and have had one child - Percy.

On **16th September 1916** Percy Pilling signs on for military service with the Training Reserve of the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment.

His Army number is 39790. He is shown as living at 228 Crescent Road, Bolton (close to Manchester Road).

Percy survived the war and a marriage record shows that, on **22nd December 1920**, Percy married Annie Watson at St James Parish Church, Bolton. Annie was living at 6 Park

Cottages, next door to where Percy lived as a child.

Percy was 31 years of age and Annie 22. The wedding was witnessed by father Jacob (Retired Bleacher) and Annie's father John Walter Watson (Game Keeper). The wedding was witnessed by Clive Watson and John William Lomax. The Rev. Arthur W. Nye conducted the service.

Percy and Annie had a daughter on **28th September 1921** and named her Mary Peak Pilling. The naming was possibly Mary after Percy's mother and Peak after his mothers' maiden name.

Mary Peak Pilling was baptised at St Peter's, Halliwell on **26th October 1921** by Rev. W S Standen (this is the same reverend gentleman who conducted the inauguration of the Memorial at Smithills Hall Chapel on which is her father Percy's name! Percy and Annie were living at 4 Park Cottages, Bolton and Percy was described as a mechanic.

On **13th January 1943** Mary Peak Pilling married Jack Brownbridge (born c. 1904) at St Peter's, Halliwell.

Percy died on **10th November 1945** and was buried on **13th November 1945** in grave 640A in St Peter's, Halliwell aged 54. He was recorded as living at 4 Park Cottages, Halliwell. Rev. P Marr Davies conducted the service.

The England & Wales Probate Calendar 1858-1966 records that 'Percy Pilling of 4 Park Cottages, Smithills, Bolton died 10 November 1945. Probate Llandudno **21 February** [1946] to Annie Pilling widow and James Vause plumber. Effects £3,795.18s'

Annie died **September 1959**.