



Photo from *Leaving All that was Dear* by J Devereux and G Sacker

PERCIVAL LOUIS BALLINGER

Army Number 17566

Corporal, 10th Battalion, Gloucestershire Regiment

Killed in action in France on 13 October 1915, aged 21

Address: Laburnum, 206 Old Bath Road

He has no known grave but is commemorated on the Loos Memorial and is named on the War Memorials in Leckhampton and Cheltenham and also in Gloucester city.

Percival Ballinger was born in Leckhampton in 1893, the only son of Alfred and Eunice Ballinger of the above address. He enlisted in Gloucester in January 1915 and was sent to France on 4 October. He was killed nine days later in the Battle of Loos, during the unsuccessful storming of the Hohenzollern Redoubt, an important defensive point in the midst of the French coal-fields. The final British assault on 13 October failed and resulted in over 3,000 casualties, mostly in the first few minutes.

A memorial medallion issued to his next-of-kin is now held in the Cheltenham Museum and Art Gallery (The Wilson) – *see overleaf*.

The Loos Memorial, which lists 20,610 names of British and Commonwealth soldiers with no known grave who were killed in the area during and after the Battle of Loos

Photo – Commonwealth War Graves Commission



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Bronze medallion commemorating Percival Ballinger, held in the Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum (The Wilson) – actual size, about 5 inches (120mm).

Photograph – *Eric Miller* by permission of The Wilson

Popularly known as ‘Dead Man’s Pennies’ or ‘Death Pennies’, these medallions, or plaques, were issued to the next-of-kin of all members of the British and Empire services who had been killed as a result of the war. 1,355,000 were issued, including 600 to servicewomen.

The design portrays Britannia with a trident, standing beside a lion, and holding an oak wreath above a tablet bearing the name of the deceased. Two dolphins swim around Britannia, symbolizing Britain’s sea power, and at the bottom a second lion is tearing apart the German eagle. The reverse is blank. Around the picture the legend reads (in capitals) ‘He died for freedom and honour’, or for the six hundred plaques issued to commemorate women ‘She died for freedom and honour’.

A similar medallion was cast for Augustus Siddall (see later page)