

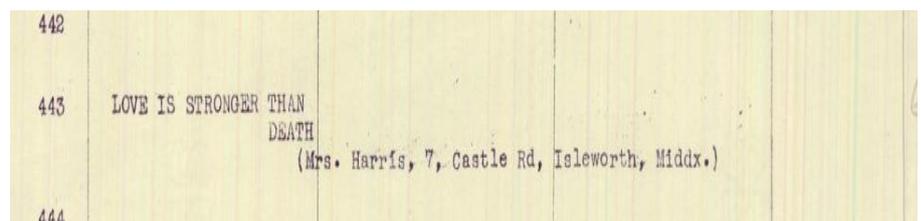
Sydney Edward Harris



Sydney was born in Barnes on September 30th 1894, the son of Sydney Harris (1869- 1939) and Alice Alexandra Longmore (1868-1934). His father, Sydney, was born in the Paddington area and was a furniture upholsterer; Alice was born in Woodford Essex and they married on August 1st 1891 in Holy Trinity Church, Barnes. Sydney's grandfather, Henry, was a builder by trade and his maternal grandfather, Alexander, a coffee stall keeper. The family lived in Lillian Road, Barnes when they were married and then Merthyr Terrace when Sydney Edward was born. They had moved to 1 Trinity Church Road Barnes by 1901 and then 7 Castle Road Isleworth by 1911.

In 1911, Sydney Edward, the eldest child and had one surviving brother and two sisters: Herbert Murdoch (1896-1867) was also an upholsterer like his father and brother Sydney and he married Bessie Sumpton in 1926. Ivy Winifred (1899-1989) married Arthur Percy Scrivens in 1922 and Elsie Maud (1901-1966) married her brother in law's brother, Richard Scrivens in 1926; all three married in the Brentford area. This was a very local family. Indeed, in 1939, Elsie, Richard and their family were living in the Harris family home, 7 Castle Road, Isleworth (*see below left for a photo taken in 2016*). Sydney enlisted at 21 Edward Street, St Pancras, the HQ and drill station for the 3rd (City of London) Battalion (Royal Fusiliers), the London regiment, (2269).

In early 1916, this battalion served with the 56th (London) Division. Sydney was killed in action on 13th June 1916 in the build up to the Somme battles and buried in Hebuterne Military Cemetery. The village of Hebuterne gave its name to a severe action fought by the French on the 10th-13th June 1915, in the "Second Battle of Artois". It was taken over by British troops from the French in the same summer, and it remained subject to shell fire during the Battles of the Somme. The military cemetery was used by fighting units and Field Ambulances (particularly those of the 56th (London) Division until 1917. Sydney's headstone is inscribed with:



On the second anniversary of his death, Sydney's parents arranged for this memorial in the Middlesex Chronicle, 15th June 1918: *'Never forgotten. In proud and loving remembrance of Private Sydney Edward Harris, killed in action on 13th June 1916, eldest son of Mr and Mrs S Harris, 7 Castle Road, Isleworth. Oh for the touch of a vanished hand/ For the sound of a voice that is still.'*

Sydney is also remembered on the memorial at St John's, and at All Saints churches in Isleworth.