

## Sydney Thomas Oldis



Sydney Thomas was born in the September Quarter, 1899 in Isleworth. His father George Charles Oldis (1868-1938) had married Mary Isabella Lane (1872-,1954) in the Brentford area in 1893 and in the later part of his life was employed at the Tram Company. The Oldis family were well established in Isleworth and George's parents, James Oldis and Sarah Richens of 4 Tolson Road, Isleworth, originally

married in St John's Church in Isleworth in 1864, had celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary in the summer of 1914, as reported in the Middlesex Chronicle of 8<sup>th</sup> August 1914. Sydney's family lived in Weber Cottage on North Street in 1901, by 1911, they had moved to 11, Algar Road (*see below for a 2018 photo of that property*) and later to 25 North Street.



Sydney had three brothers and three sisters, most of whom lived long lives and remained in the Isleworth area. George Alfred Oldis (1896-1962) worked as a roundsman at Pussy's Butchers (cat meat merchant) in 1911; he served with the Middlesex Regiment and the Machine Gun Corps, married Mary Clements in 1921 and later lived at 67 Worton Road with his family, employed with Electrical Cables. Albert (1906-1971) also served with the Middlesex Regiment and then the Royal Army Medical Corps; in 1939 he was living with Mary, his mother, at 25 North Street, as a labourer with an Electric Light Company. Charles Henry (1901-1977) served with Royal Artillery; later worked as an attendant at the Swimming Baths and married Nellie Cox in 1931.

Edith Ann Emily (1894- 1964) married twice, initially to Arthur S Evans in 1913, and they had a child, Arthur Stanley George Evans, born 1916 and then to her cousin, James William Oldis in 1922. Mabel Alice (1903-1993) married Joseph F Neve in 1930 in Brentford and by 1939 was living with Joseph at 26 Morris Road, Isleworth.

Sydney's youngest sister was Florence Marjorie (1910-1981) who married Percy Gould in 1934 in Brentford; and by 1939 was living at 79 St John's Road, Isleworth, with her family.

Very few of Sydney's army records survive, but we do know that he enlisted in Hounslow, served initially with the Northampton Regiment, with the number 49395, and then transferred to the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Leicestershire Regiment, registered as 42155. In 1917, The Leicestershire Regiment were involved in the Battle of Ypres, at Polygon Wood, Broodseinde, Passchendaele and Cambrai. Sydney was awarded the Victory and British War medals and died 'At Home', of wounds and at Chatham Hospital on 31<sup>st</sup> May 1918, aged 18, and was buried in Isleworth Cemetery, see below for a photograph of his headstone and grave. His mother Mary Oldis, received his effects. He was also remembered at All Saints Church, Church Street, Isleworth.

