

Francis 'Frank' Sharland Nolde

Born – Paddington 1891

Baptised – 5th April 1891

Died – 10 July 1917

Buried at Coxyde Military Cemetery, Flanders.

Frank was born in Paddington in 1891. His father, William, was a baker who was born in Seleberg – then part of Germany, although historically it was (and now is again) Danish. Frank had three siblings. The family were living at Walterton Road in Paddington when Frank was born, and later moved to 64 Saltram Crescent.

By the time he was 20 Frank was working as a tyre repairer.

In 1913 he married Lily Aris in Paddington, and they had two children – Winifred (1914) and Norman (1917). When Frank died the couple were living at 38 Kensal Road.

Like William Davis, Frank enlisted in the Army Service Corps, joining up at Mill Hill. Presumably his familiarity with tyres helped decide where he served. He was attached to 1st Field Ambulance. Frank is listed as one of 36 men from St Anne's parish who were either on their way to the front or preparing to leave in September 1914, which suggests he was an army reservist before the war.

Frank was killed on 10 July 1917, age 27. He is buried at Coxyde Military Cemetery, Flanders.

After the war Lily remarried (to a James Huggett of Watford) in 1922. Frank's son Norman fought in 22nd company, Royal Engineers, in WW2 and was a prisoner of war in Japan in 1941. Norman married Bettie Gorton in Hendon in 1946. Their son Norman A Nolde was born in 1947 in Edmonton.

He was 27 when he died.

He was survived by his wife, Lily and 2 children.

38 Kensal Road

George William Saunders

Born – Paddington 1894

Died – 18 August 1917

Buried at Mendinghem Military Cemetery in Flanders.

George was born in Paddington . His father was a carpenter, and George had two siblings. The family moved to 18 Summerfield Avenue some time in the 1910s.

By the time he was 16, George had left school and had followed his father into working as a carpenter.

George served in the Royal Field Artillery – another Territorial Force unit – so he may well have been another pre-war ‘Terrier’. He enlisted at Paddington and served in A Battery, 18th Brigade of the RFA.

The Royal Field Artillery specialised in providing close support for troops on the front line, using lightweight, highly mobile guns.

He was killed on 18 August 1917 and is buried at Mendinghem Military Cemetery in Flanders. Mendinghem, like Dozinghem and Bandaghem, were the popular names given by the troops to groups of casualty clearing stations posted to this area during the First World War.

The date of his death and the place where he is buried suggests he was killed in the Battle of Langemarck, part of an Allied offensive in the Ypres Salient from 16 to 18 August 1917. Although the attack gained a lot of ground in the first hours, almost all of it was lost again and the assault achieved very little.

George had been promoted to Corporal by the time when he was killed.

He was 23 when he died.

18 Summerfield Ave

George Lewis

Born – Kilburn 1879

Died – 23 March 1918

Commemorated on the Arras Memorial, which commemorates nearly 35,000 British and Commonwealth soldiers with no known grave.

George Lewis was the first of a group of soldiers from Queen's Park who died during the German Spring Offensive of 1918, which aimed to end the war before the Americans could make a difference to Allied strength. In all six soldiers from Queen's Park died during this phase of the war, more than in any other period.

George was born in 1879 in Kilburn. The family moved around a lot, living in Cambridge Road, Linstead Street (behind Kilburn Grange park) and finally 19 Charteris Road. His father died when he was young, and George left school to work as a milk carrier.

George enrolled in March 1916 at Mill Hill. He was 36 years of age, unmarried and working as a furniture remover. He said his preference was to serve in the Middlesex Regiment but he was assigned to the 2nd Battalion of the Sherwood Foresters (Notts and Derby Regiment) instead.

He was killed on 23 March 1918 and is commemorated on the Arras Memorial, which commemorates nearly 35,000 British and Commonwealth soldiers with no known grave.

He was 38 when he died.

19 Charteris Road

Sydney Bourne

Born – Walthamstow 1892

Died – 28 March 1918

Commemorated on the Pozieres Memorial

Sydney Bourne was born in Walthamstow in 1892. At the time, his father was a walking stick turner. Sydney had four siblings. By 1911 the family were living in Adelaide Road, Shepherd's Bush, and Sydney's father was working as a shopkeeper, while Sydney was working as a clerk for a fashion printers.

Sydney married Ethel Annie Ridler at St Anne's on 5 February 1916. Both were living at 27 Lynton Road at the time when they were married.

He enlisted at Mansion House. He initially served in the Queen's Own West Kent Yeomanry, a Territorial Force cavalry regiment, but later served in the 7th Battalion of the Royal West Kent Regiment (Queen's Own). The 7th (Service) Battalion was formed at Maidstone on 5 September 1914 as part of the Second New Army.

Sydney died on 28 March 1918 during the German Spring Offensive on the Somme. He was 26.

He is commemorated on the Pozieres Memorial. The memorial relates to the period of crisis in March and April 1918 when the Allied Fifth Army was driven back by overwhelming numbers across the former Somme battlefields, and the months that followed before the Advance to Victory, which began on 8 August 1918.

He was 26 when he died.

27 Lynton Road

Walter Robinson Wells

Born – Oulton St John, Yorkshire 1891

Baptised – 8 November 1891

Died – 24 April 1918

*Commemorated on the Pozieres Memorial
to the missing of the Battle of Arras.*

Walter Robinson Wells was the second professional soldier already serving when the war began. He was born in 1891 in Oulton St John, Yorkshire, and baptised on 8 November. His father was a butcher's salesman.

By 1911, age 20, he was already serving in the army. He was stationed in India, with the 1st Battalion West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own).

Walter married Edith Ellen Wells at St Anne's on 12 January 1918. At the time he was 28 and living at 12 Storey Square, Barrow in Furness. Edith was a widow – she married a man, coincidentally also called Wells, in early 1913. She was a domestic servant, living at 119 Chevening Road.

Walter was killed a little over three months after his marriage, on 24 April 1918 during the German Spring Offensive. He had risen to the rank of serjeant and was serving with the 2nd Battalion of the West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own). Like Sydney Bourne, he is commemorated on the Pozieres Memorial to the missing of the Battle of Arras.

He was 28 when he died.

He was survived by his wife of 3 Months, Edith.

119 Chevening Road

Ernest Lawrence Appleby

Born – Hampstead July to September 1893

**Baptised – Emmanuel Church West
Hampstead on 8 July 1893**

Died – 5 April 1918

*Commemorated on the Arras Memorial,
indicating that his body was never recovered.*

Ernest was born in July-Sept 1893 in Hampstead. His parents were Ernest Walkington Appleby, who was an artist whose works are still sold at Christie's, and Louisa Elizabeth Appleby. Ernest was baptized at Emmanuel Church in West Hampstead on 8 July 1893. His family were living at 1 Agamemnon Road at the time. They later moved to Priory Road in West Hampstead, and then to 52 Calcott Road in Kilburn. Ernest had one brother, Victor.

Ernest attended Kilburn Grammar School, but he had left by the age of 17 and was working as a clerk for a printers.

Ernest's military record says he served from 10 October 1917 until his death on 5 April 1918. He started his military service in the 1st Battalion of the London Regiment (Royal Fusiliers)– the same battalion as Harry Mills and Arthur Meech had served in. This was the former volunteer section of the Royal Fusiliers regiment, which transferred across to the London Regiment when the latter was created as part of the Territorial Force in Haldane's reforms of 1908.

However, when he was killed he was attached to the 13th Battalion of the Royal Fusiliers, which was formed at Hounslow in September 1914 as part of Kitchener's recruitment drive.

He was killed 5 April 1918, near the town of Villers-Bretonneux, during the Battle of the Avre (part of the German Spring Offensive, attempting to take Amiens).

He was 24 when he died.

52 Calcott Road

Harold Chapman

Born – Queen's Park 1899

Died – 14 April 1918

*Commemorated on the Arras Memorial,
indicating that his body was never recovered.*

Harold Chapman was born in 1899 in Queen's Park. His family lived at 32 Keslake Road originally, and later at 11 Keslake. His father was a commercial clerk and he had three younger brothers. The family employed a live-in housekeeper in 1911, 36 year old Louisa King.

Harold studied at Kilburn Grammar School.

He was only 15 when the war broke out so he wouldn't have been able to join the Territorials before the war. He enlisted in the 16th Battalion of the London Regiment (Queen's Westminster Rifles) – the same battalion as Melvin Sims – at the recruiting station in Holborn.

He was killed in action on 14 April 1918 aged 19, during the German Spring Offensive. His body was never recovered and he is commemorated at the Arras Memorial.

He was 19 when he died.

11 Keslake Road

Leonard Albert Bishop

Born – Hackney, 1897

Died – 17 April 1918

*Buried at Le Grand Hasard Military Cemetery,
Morbeque, a small village near Hazebrouck*

Leonard Albert Bishop was born in 1897 in Hackney. His father was a hosier, originally from Brighton, and his mother was from Bermondsey. The family lived at 22 Esmond Road and then at 69 Keslake Road. Leonard had two sisters and a brother. By 1911 Leonard, aged 14, was still at school part-time but was also working for a wool merchants.

He enlisted on 29th May 1915 in the 316th (London) Brigade of the Royal Field Artillery in Brixton, age 19 years and 10 months.

At the time when he died he was attached to the 119th Brigade of the Royal Field Artillery, serving in "A" Battery.

Leonard was killed on 17 April 1918 and is buried at Le Grand Hasard Military Cemetery, Morbeque, a small village near Hazebrouck. Most of the soldiers buried there were killed in the fighting of April 1918 following the major German offensive known as the Battle of the Lys or the Battle of Hazebrouck, which was another part of the German Spring Offensive. It's likely that he was killed in this fighting.

He was 19 when he died.

69 Keslake Road.

Thomas Edward Meech

**Born – Marylebone, October to
December 1892**

**Baptised – Christ Church, Marylebone,
8 January 1893**

Died – 8 June 1918

Buried at Paddington Cemetery

Thomas was the second of the Meech brothers to die in the war. He was born in Marylebone in the last three months of 1892 and baptised at Christ Church, Marylebone, on 8 January 1893. He was younger than Arthur by six years. On leaving school he worked as a shop assistant, and then later as a dental assistant.

Thomas enlisted in the Territorial Force on 29 January 1912, age 19 years and 2 months. Like Sydney Gabriel, Leonard Bishop and George Saunders, Thomas joined the Royal Field Artillery – in fact Sydney and Thomas both served in the 1st Brigade of the RFA. Although there was three years between them and they went to different schools, both men enlisted in the same brigade before the war so they presumably knew each other well.

Thomas served in Britain from 1914 until 1916, and then for two years in France before he was invalided home with his third episode of pneumonia. He died of pneumonia at the 3rd Southern General Hospital in Oxford on 8 June 1918 and is buried at Paddington Cemetery.

At the time when he died he had been promoted to Lance Bombardier and was serving with A Battery of the 8th Brigade, Royal Field Artillery.

He was 25 when he died.

31 Honiton Road

Charles William Meech

**Born – Marylebone, October to
December 1890**

Died – 27 July 1918

Buried at Le Quesnoy Communal Cemetery

Charles William (brother of Thomas and Arthur) – the third of the brothers commemorated at St Anne's – died a matter of weeks after his brother Thomas.

He was born in the last three months of 1890, in Marylebone, making him four years younger than Arthur but two years older than Thomas. When he left school he became a motor mechanic.

On 15 January 1912 Charles enlisted in the 2nd Battalion (Royal Fusiliers) of the London Regiment. This was yet another part of the Territorial Force – the same one Harry Mills served in.

He was 18 years and 2 months old, and was five feet 3 inches tall. He later transferred to the 23rd (County of London) Battalion of the London Regiment, where he was serving when he died.

He was a prisoner of war at the time – there was a transit camp for POWs near the Le Quesnoy Communal Cemetery where he is buried.

He still held the rank of private when he died on 27 July 1918.

He was 28 when he died.

Ernest William Fry

Born – 10 June 1890

Died – 4 September 1918

*Commemorated on the Vis-en-Artois
memorial to the missing*

Ernest William Fry was born on 10 June 1890. His family lived at 19 Kingsley Road and later at 3 Plympton Avenue. After leaving school Ernest worked as a jeweller's assistant.

Ernest was the first of the Queen's Park soldiers to die in the phase of the war known as the Advance to Victory. Following the failure of the Spring Offensive and the arrival of American troops on the Western Front, the German war effort began to crumble between August and November 1918. Although victory was close, four servicemen from Queen's Park died during this final stage of the war.

Ernest was remarkable for another reason – he was technically a sailor, serving with the army. Like so many other servicemen from Queen's Park, Ernest enlisted in the Territorial Force before the war – in his case in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve. However, when war broke out there weren't enough ships to accommodate all the serving seamen and reserves, so the Royal Navy Division was formed to fight on land as regular soldiers. Ernest was promoted to sub-lieutenant in December 1915 and spent part of the war as an instructor at a training school in Calais.

He was killed on 4 September 1918 near Arras while serving with Drake Battalion and is commemorated on the Vis-en-Artois memorial to the missing. The battalion's war diary records how they 'mopped up' the German trenches of the Hindenburg Line on the 3rd and proceeded to Tadpole Copse, where they consolidated for the night. On the 4th they advanced on to the village of Mouevres, but they were forced to retire back to the Hindenburg Line due to heavy shelling. This is when Ernest was killed. His body was never recovered.

He was 28 when he died.

9 Plympton Ave

William James Lane

Born – Kilburn 1900

Died – 4 September 1918

*Buried at Voormezele Enclosure No3,
the same cemetery as Frank Hallett,
who died nearly three and a half years before him.*

William was one of two 18 year olds from Queen's Park to die in the war (the other was Charles Penny). He was born in 1900 in Kilburn. His father was a 'collector of money for the Singer Sewing Machine Company' and he was one of four children (all boys).

William served in the 12th (Service) Battalion of the East Surrey Regiment, which was formed in Bermondsey.

William was killed on 4 September 1918 near Ypres. William's unit of the East Surreys were supporting the 15th Hampshires in an attack on strongly defended enemy positions along the Vierstraat-Wytschaete road, north-east of Kemmel, during the Advance to Victory. The attack, on 4th September 1918, began badly when the covering barrage fell behind, rather than in front of, the first objective, the light railway west of Bois Quarante. The German machine-guns which escaped being shelled inflicted heavy casualties, while the British soldiers were also attacked with gas.

Nevertheless, the soldiers pushed on and managed to reach the railway line. They tried to hold on along the railway, but a strong German counter-attack forced them out with heavy casualties. The battalion's war diary for September 1918, written by Major GO Searle, says:

"Companies were reported in position for attack at 4am. C&D companies in front on the line of railway. The barrage for the attack commenced at 5.30am and by 6.15am C&D companies had reached their objectives – ie line of the road along the west end of Bois Quarante – and proceeded to consolidate. Casualties practically nil. As soon as covering barrage halted they were subject to heavy machine gun fire from [a trench] on their right rear and two large pill boxes in Grand Bois. In endeavouring to keep the men together all officers of the two companies with the exception of Second Lieutenant Reynolds became casualties.

"A&B companies under Captain Rogers moved from railway and endeavoured to form a defensive flank and fill up the gap between C&D companies and 15th Hampshire Regiment. About 7.15am the enemy realised a lack of cohesion in the attack and counter-attacked C&D companies, at the same time filtering through small parties with light machine guns. D Company who had suffered severe casualties were driven back to the railway and C [company] to a line immediately to the east of [a group of craters]. These positions were held until 1pm when A&B companies who had suffered heavy casualties from hostile shell fire fell back..."

He was 18 when he died.

Kilburn

Harold Silvester Mitchell

Born – Queen's Park Summer 1891

Baptised – Holy Trinity Kilburn

13 September 1891

Died – 5 September 1918

Buried at Queant Cemetery, near Buissy

Harold Silvester Mitchell was born in Queen's Park in the summer of 1891 and baptised at Holy Trinity, Kilburn on 13 September of that year. His father was a schoolmaster, and the family lived first at 12 Summerfield Avenue and then at 22 Summerfield.

In total four of the servicemen commemorated at St Anne's lived on Summerfield Avenue – as well as Harold Mitchell they were George Saunders (number 18), Harry Mills (number 25 – coincidentally also the son of a schoolteacher) and Harry Turrell (number 33). There was only four years between the youngest and oldest.

Harold worked as an advertisers' clerk when he left school. He married Helen Elizabeth Newell at Holy Trinity, Hounslow, on 10 November 1915. He was 24 and she was 21.

He served in the 7th Battalion of the Royal Fusiliers and was killed on 5 September 1918 during the Advance to Victory.

He is buried at Queant Cemetery, near Buissy, which was reached by the British on 2 September 1918. He had reached the rank of Lance Serjeant when he died.

He was 27 when he died.

22 Summerfield Ave

Ernest Victor Crawley

Born – Willesden Summer 1897

Baptised – St Luke's West Kilburn

14 January 1898

Died – 4 October 1918

Buried at St Sever Cemetery Extension.

Ernest was born in Willesden. His father worked at Somerset House for the Stamp Office – part of the Inland Revenue. The family later moved to Purves Road and then to 219 Harvist Road. We have no idea what job Ernest had before joining the army.

Ernest served in the 6th Battalion of the London Regiment, known as the City of London Rifles. This was part of the Territorial Force when the war broke out, although Ernest only turned 17 shortly before war broke out in 1914 so it is more likely he enlisted after the war started or was conscripted. The City of London Rifles attracted men from the printing industry and newspapers.

Ernest's battalion saw extensive action in WW1 from the time it disembarked at Le Havre on 25 January 1917. It was involved in the Battle of Bullecourt, where Arthur Meech was killed, and in heavy fighting at Villers-Bretonneux during the German Spring Offensive (when Ernest Appleby was killed).

The battalion took part in the Battle of Amiens in August 1918, at the start of the Advance to Victory, taking heavy casualties (28 officers and 638 other ranks between 8 August and 11 September). They returned to action in October, pursuing the retreating German army at the rate of about 10 miles a day and facing rearguard attacks and raiding parties, and sometimes gas attacks.

Ernest died at No 11 Stationary Hospital, one of a number of Allied hospitals outside Rouen, on 4 October 1918, and was buried at St Sever Cemetery Extension.

He was 21 when he died.

219 Harvist Road

Percy Buckland Barnes

Born – Leytonstone 1890

Died – 11 November 1918.

Buried at Highgate Cemetery

Percy Buckland Barnes was the last soldier commemorated on the St Anne's plaque to die in the war – on Armistice Day itself, 11 November 1918.

Percy was born in 1890 in Leytonstone, the son of a draper. He and his brother Reginald (two years his senior) were pupils at Westminster Abbey's Chorister School, then in Little Smith Street, in 1901. By 1911 the brothers (plus three new siblings) were back living with their parents, who were now based in Streatham. Percy was working as a shipping clerk.

Percy served in the 7th Dragoon Guards (Princess Royal's). We don't know anything else about his service record, only that he was living at 3 College Mansions, Winchester Avenue when he died, and that he died of TB at the 4th London General Hospital in Denmark Hill.

He was 28 when he died.

3 College Mansions, Winchester Avenue