

## **Private Sidney Arthur Charles Anthony<sup>©</sup>**

**Regimental number: 46404**

**"C" Company, 20th Battalion, Royal Fusiliers (London Regiment)**

**born: 1891 – died: 17 August 1917**

Private Sidney Arthur Charles Anthony was born in St Faiths, Norfolk, in 1891,<sup>1</sup> the son of Emma Eliza Anthony, age 24, of Sprowston, Norfolk.<sup>2</sup> In April 1891, the three and a half month old and his mother were living with her parents, Charles and Eliza Anthony in Crostwick, Norfolk.

His mother married Arthur Ernest Drake in the spring of 1891 near St Faiths, Norfolk.<sup>3</sup> Arthur was born in about 1868 in Hellesdon, Norfolk.<sup>4</sup> Emma and Arthur had at least another ten children, nine of whom survived childhood. The surviving children were Reginald E. J. (born in about 1892), Hilda A. M. (born in about 1894), Ethel A. (born in about 1897), Annie A. (born in about 1899), Grace G. (born in about 1902), Donald E. (born in about 1903), Ruby M. (born in about 1906) and Phylliss (sic) I. (born in about 1908).<sup>5</sup>

In 1901, the family was living at Betts Buildings in Norwich, where Arthur was working for himself as a fowl dealer. Sadly, Arthur died in 1907, at the age of 39,<sup>6</sup> leaving Emma with nine children, the youngest of whom was born after his death. In 1911, Emma was living at 11 Grimsby Street in Norwich with the nine children, who ranged in age from 3 to 19.<sup>7</sup> She was a housekeeper. Following in the footsteps of Arthur Drake, Sidney was working as a fowl dealer. In 1901 and 1911 census records, Sidney was given the family name of Drake. However, when he married and later enlisted in the army, he reverted to his birth name, Anthony.

He married Alice Lily Quantrell in 1913 in St Faiths. Alice was born in St Faiths in about 1891<sup>8</sup> and was the daughter of Frederick Quantrell, a farm labourer, and his wife Rachel. Before she married, Alice was working for a boot manufacturer as a boot fitter.<sup>9</sup>

Sidney enlisted in the army in Norwich<sup>10</sup> and was a private in "C" Company of the 20th Battalion of the Royal Fusiliers when he was admitted to the 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station on 17 August 1917 with multiple gunshot wounds to his arm, head and neck.<sup>11</sup> He died the same day, at 9:45 p.m.,<sup>12</sup> and was buried that day in Adinkerke Military Cemetery (Grave Reference: C. 31).<sup>13</sup> Adinkerke Military Cemetery is 20 kilometres east of Dunkirk, in the community of De Panne, just across the border into Belgium. There are 168 Commonwealth soldiers from the Great War buried in the cemetery.<sup>14</sup>

On the day that he was admitted, Sidney was one of 110 admissions to the 1st CCCS. There was a total of 1,896 admissions in the month of August.<sup>15</sup>

His wife, who was then living at Mile Cross Lane, Old Catton, Norwich, was notified of his death.<sup>16</sup> She also received the monies owing to him from the army upon his death.<sup>17</sup>

Sidney was awarded the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918) and the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre).<sup>18</sup>

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- <sup>1</sup> "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837–1915 *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 7 May 2016), entry for Sidney Arthur C Anthony, Registration district: St Faith's, Inferred County: Norfolk, Volume: 4b, Page: 92
- <sup>2</sup> "1891 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 7 May 2016), entry for Sidney A C Anthony, Registration district: St Faith, ED, institution, or vessel: 3, Piece: 1517, Folio: 37, Page Number: 3
- <sup>3</sup> "England & Wales, FreeBMD Marriage Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 26 November 2016), entry for Emma Eliza Anthony, Registration district: St Faith's, Inferred County: Norfolk, Volume: 4b, Page: 127
- <sup>4</sup> "1901 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 7 May 2016), entry for Sydney Drake, Registration district: Norwich, Sub-registration district: East Wymer, ED, institution, or vessel: 01, Piece: 1834, Folio: 20, Page Number: 32, Household schedule number: 194
- <sup>5</sup> "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 7 May 2016), entry for Sydney A C Drake, Registration district: Norwich, Registration district number: 225, Sub-registration district: East Wymer, ED, institution, or vessel: 22, Household schedule number: 129, Piece: 11276
- <sup>6</sup> "England & Wales, FreeBMD Death Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 7 May 2016), entry for Arthur Ernest Drake, Registration district: Norwich, Inferred County: Norfolk, Volume: 4b, Page: 88
- <sup>7</sup> "1911 England Census," entry for Sydney A C Drake
- <sup>8</sup> "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 4 June 2016), entry for Alice Lily Quantrell, Registration district: St Faith's, Inferred County: Norfolk, Volume: 4b, Page: 110
- <sup>9</sup> "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 4 June 2016), entry for Alice Quantrell, Registration district: Norwich, Registration district number: 225, Sub-registration district: East Wymer, ED, institution, or vessel: 22, Household schedule number: 424, Piece: 11276
- <sup>10</sup> "UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914–1919," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 7 May 2016), entry for Sydney Anthony
- <sup>11</sup> "Record of Deaths, 17 February 1916 - 10 February 1919, a record maintained at No. 1 CCCS," *Library and Archives Canada*, (records accessed 2013 and 2016), Record Group 9, series IIC10, volume 4556, Record number 337
- <sup>12</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>13</sup> "Commonwealth War Graves Commission," ([www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org): accessed 7 May 2016), entry for Anthony, Sidney Arthur Charles, Service No: 46404
- <sup>14</sup> "Adinkerke Military Cemetery," Commonwealth War Graves Commission (<http://www.cwgc.org/> accessed 30 April 2016)
- <sup>15</sup> "War Diaries of the First World War: 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station 1914/08/13-1919/03/31," *Library and Archives Canada* ([http://data4.collectionscanada.gc.ca/netacgi/nph-brs?s1=casualty+clearing&s13=&s12=&l=20&s9=RG9&s7=9-52&Sect1=IMAGE&Sect2=THESOFF&Sect4=AND&Sect5=WARDPEN&Sect6=HITOFF&d=FINDD&p=1&u=http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/archivianet/02016202\\_e.html&r=1&f=G](http://data4.collectionscanada.gc.ca/netacgi/nph-brs?s1=casualty+clearing&s13=&s12=&l=20&s9=RG9&s7=9-52&Sect1=IMAGE&Sect2=THESOFF&Sect4=AND&Sect5=WARDPEN&Sect6=HITOFF&d=FINDD&p=1&u=http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/archivianet/02016202_e.html&r=1&f=G))
- <sup>16</sup> "Record of Deaths, 17 February 1916 - 10 February 1919, a record maintained at No. 1 CCCS," Record number 337
- <sup>17</sup> "UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901–1929," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk); accessed 7 May 2016), entry for Sidney Anthony
- <sup>18</sup> "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 7 May 2016), entry for Sidney Anthony