

2nd Lt Sydney Lionel Stern



DoB: 2nd July 1895

Died: 22nd February 1918

Age: 22

Buried: Garnethill Cemetery Glasgow Hebrew Congregational burial

Family:

Born in Kilmacolm, Renfrewshire to Jacob and Sarah Stern. Jacob was born in Karland, Russia and died in 1902. His mother died in January 1917. 3 siblings – 2 older & 1 younger. He was an Assistant Engineer at the outbreak of the war and was a keen sportsman and athlete.

Military Career:

Joined the Lanarkshire Yeomanry on 26th August 1914. Sydney applied for a commission and was gazetted 2nd Lieutenant in The Royal Scots (Lothian Regt) on 1st July 1915 and transferred to the RFC on 5th June 1917. He attended the No.2 School of Military Aeronautics in Oxford from 10th August 1917 and was promoted to 2nd Lt “on Probation” on 3rd October 1917 attending 2 Training Squadrons before being posted to Port Meadow on 21st January 1918 with 35 TS. Sydney was still under instruction at time of his death.

Accident:

Port Meadow. 2nd Lt Alexander Burgess, an instructor at Port Meadow, was piloting BE2e A8637 when the right wings folded back with the sound “like a shot from a gun” after diving too steeply and then trying to pull up. The aircraft nosedived into the ground and caught fire. Court of Inquiry judged death was accidental due to an “error of judgement” upon the part of the pilot. Sydney was the passenger. His coffin was escorted by an RFC officer to Glasgow, where his funeral took place with military honours, his remains carried on a gun carriage covered with a Union Jack.