



# Sydney Frost Hurlstone

## 5 Park Grove

Sydney was born on Christmas Day 1895 in Derby. In 1901, he lived at 36 West Avenue, with his parents and his brother Herbert Alfred, two years older than him.

By 1911 they had moved to 5 Park Grove, when Sydney (15), was at school and Herbert (17), was an apprentice Manufacturing Chemist. In March 1912, aged 17, Sydney started work as a laboratory technician with Derby Town Council's Special Drainage Committee

Sydney volunteered for military service just after the war began – he was posted with the 19<sup>th</sup> Royal Fusiliers, and on 14 November 1915, aged 18 and 11 months, he began active service in France.

He was commissioned as 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant to the Infantry Battalion of the Machine Gun Corps (MGC) in August 1916.

The MGC was formed in October 1915, because the army realised they needed to use machine guns more effectively on the Western Front, in larger units and crewed by specially trained men.

Sydney was promoted to Lieutenant in February 1918. He was luckier than many of his comrades, as the MGC sustained heavy losses, which earned it the nickname "the Suicide Club". Sydney survived, being

awarded "Pip, Squeak and Wilfred" - the Victory, British and 1915 Star medals.



British Vickers machine gun, shown set up for anti-aircraft purposes. Photographed circa 1914-1918. (Wikimedia Commons)

The boys' parents, Charles (a railway clerk) and Sarah (née Frost) still lived at 5 Park Grove in 1918, but Sydney was "absent on Naval or Military service" until autumn 1919. He continued to live at Park Grove until he married Beatrice V M Stapleton in Nottingham in 1922 and their only son Charles was born in Bridgnorth, Shropshire in 1930. On his mother's probate record in 1955 he is listed as a "Company Director." Sydney died in High Peak in 1984 at the grand old age of 88. In the final years of his life he lived at New Mills near his son.