

Sidney Charles MACEY

Coy Sgt Major 6426 1st Battalion Scots Guards **Killed in action aged 28 on 2 .11. 1914 Ypres Salient**

Date of Birth: 1886, Chilmark nr Salisbury

Sidney Charles Macey was born 1885/1886 in Chilmark near Salisbury, Wiltshire to Edwin and Emma Macey (nee Macey!), and was baptised on 29th January 1886 in the local parish. His parents had a total of four children. In 1901 Sidney was still living with his parents in Chilmark and working as a groom but joined the 1st Battalion, Scots Guards, on 2 February 1906. After 3 years service, he left to join the Guildford Borough Police, and was appointed on 8 February 1909 and sworn in as Constable 20, by the Mayor, at Guildford Town Hall, on 22 March that year. In his time with Guildford Borough Police he rose from Constable 4th Class to Constable 1st Class. The only notice on his Police service record states he was stopped one days leave in November 1911 for having failed to report a found locket. The 1911 census shows that Sidney was at that time living at 29 Testard Road, Guildford, lodging with the Lawrence family. Sidney married Ada Harriet Watt on 26 December 1912, at the Parish Church in the parish of Stoke-Next-Guildford.

He served in the Police until he resigned to rejoin the Scots Guards on 4th August 1914, at the outbreak of the First World War. The battalion were stationed in Aldershot, but left for Le Havre, France, on 13 August 1914. By 24 August, the battalion, as part of the British Expeditionary Force, was already being deployed to assist with the retirement of British and French troops in the face of the German advance. On Saturday 10 October 1914 the Surrey Advertiser newspaper reported that Mrs Macey, Stanley's wife, had received a letter from him on the previous Thursday, in which he indicated he was well but had the misfortune to have lost his brother, Private F Macey, who'd been in action with the Coldstream Guards. By 15 October the Battalion was near the village of Vendresse, having already lost 9 officers, with 206 other ranks killed, wounded and missing. From 21 October through to the early days of November the battalion saw action in the Bixschoote area north of Ypres and were involved in the heavy fighting on the outskirts of Ypres, along the Menin Road, in the vicinity of the village of Gheluvelt, in the efforts of the BEF to stem the German advance. During the fighting Sidney was taken prisoner and was reported to have died from wounds during November 1914, at the age of 28. Records show Sidney's brother, Frederick George Macey, 4 years younger, had been killed in action on 8th September 1914 whilst serving with the 1st Battalion, Coldstream Guards. The Register of Soldiers' Effects shows that Stanley left to his wife a total of £11 3s 2d which included a £5 army gratuity.

But the date Stanley died is in question, the Commonwealth War Graves records show it as 2 November 1914 whereas the Register of Soldiers' Effects as 30 November 1914; both agree he was a prisoner of war. However, the Woking News and Mail of 6 August 1915 stated it was the 14 November. Its article says "The War Office intimation simply states that he was "killed in action", but a private letter received from Geneva gives fuller particulars of the gallant soldier's death. Pte Macey received two serious wounds at Ypres on October 28th when his company was completely surrounded and when nearly all those who were not killed or wounded were taken prisoners. The last seen of Macey was as he lay wounded on the field. He was taken

prisoner by the Germans, removed to a hospital and on November 14th died of his wounds. Pte Macey leaves a widow and among members of the police force with whom he was very popular, the news of his death has been received with much regret." Stanley was aged 28 and his final resting place being unknown, he is commemorated on the Menin Gate memorial at Ypres.