

Private Sydney Luscombe[©]
Regimental number: G/5372
9th Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment

born: 31 August 1895–died: 17 June 1916

Sydney Luscombe was 20 years old when he was killed; one of 704,803 soldiers from the British Isles who died in or because of the First World War.¹

Born on 31 August 1895 at 28 Sherborne Street, Islington, South East, London, England², Sydney was the youngest child of William Henry Luscombe (1859–1913)³ and Louisa, née Rolfe (1857–1949).⁴ In 1881, William Henry was working as an engineer at E&M Works and boarding at 41 Napier Street, Borough of Hackney, the home of William Henry and Mary Ann Rolfe. Louisa, their eldest daughter, was also living there, employed as a general servant.⁵ William and Louisa married on 8 March 1884 in St. Leonard's, the parish church of Shoreditch, Borough of Hackney, East London.⁶

The couple had six children, four of whom survived to adulthood. Their first child, Jessie Louisa (1885–1886),⁷ was followed by William John (1887–1977),⁸ Alice Kate (1890–1892),⁹ Lawrence (1892–1940),¹⁰ Edith (1893–1974),¹¹ and finally Sydney. In 1891, William and Louisa were living with two children in three rooms at 15 Sherborne Street, Islington. Two other families also rented rooms at the same address. William was working as a stationary engine driver,¹² which meant that he operated a steam-driven engine in a factory.¹³ He would remain in this type of employment for the next 20 years. In 1901, the couple and their four children were living in three rooms at 28 Sherborne Street. Sydney was 5 years old. Most likely his older siblings were attending school.¹⁴

In the next decade, the family's composition began to change. In 1909, the oldest child, William John, married Bertha Barker Mitchell,¹⁵ and by 2 April 1911 the couple had moved to Kent with their infant son.¹⁶ William Henry and Louisa, with the three remaining children, were still living at 28 Sherborne Street, but in four rooms. William continued to work as a stationary engineer, Lawrence was employed as a telegraphist, Edith made artificial flowers and 15-year-old Sydney was working as a messenger assistant.¹⁷

During the following years, Sydney probably continued to live with his parents. It must have been a very sorrowful time when his father died at home of enteric (typhoid) fever on 16 January 1913; he was only 54.¹⁸ Later that year, on 16 September, Sidney's brother Lawrence departed London on the *Port Macquarie* for Melbourne, Australia.¹⁹

When war was declared on 4 August 1914, Sydney would have been 19 years old; like many others at the time he was probably caught up in the patriotic fervour that swept the country. He enlisted in the 9th Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment, at the recruiting office at St. Paul's churchyard,²⁰ probably in March 1915.²¹ The Royal Sussex Regiment was a line infantry regiment that was officially formed in 1881 as part of the Childers Reforms.²² However, it could trace its history back to over 100 years earlier. At the onset of the war it consisted of six battalions with its headquarters in Chichester, West Sussex. It raised 17 more battalions once war was declared. The 9th Battalion was one of these, formed in Chichester in September 1914.²³

The Royal Sussex Regiment gave all new wartime recruits a regimental number from a new series prefixed with the letter "G".²⁴ Sydney's service number was G/5372.

The battalion's war diary and an interview given by its Regimental Sergeant Major, Lewis Bonney, to the *Eastbourne Gazette* on 7 June 1916 provide a glimpse of Private Sydney Luscombe's life in the military. After he enlisted, he was trained at an army camp located on the South Downs near Eastbourne, East Sussex, about 119 km from London. The 9th Battalion, under the command of Lieutenant Colonel John F.P. Langdon, moved there to join the 73rd Brigade of the 24th Division. Langdon had been a major when he retired after 22 years with the Royal Sussex Regiment. When war was declared he reenlisted, was promoted to lieutenant colonel and assigned command of the new 9th Battalion. Bonney described Langdon as a proper father to the regiment.²⁵

In December 1914, the battalion moved into billets in Portslade, East Sussex, and then on to Shoreham, West Sussex, in April 1915 and Woking, Surrey, in June 1915, where the recruits received musketry training at the ranges at Bisley. Perhaps Sydney was given leave to attend the wedding of his sister Edith to Albert George Thorpe on 28 July 1915.²⁶ Sydney was with the battalion,²⁷ whose strength was just over 1,000 men when it left Woking on 21 August 1915 to march to Southampton. There the men boarded the SS *La Marguerite*, disembarking at Le Havre, France, on 1 September 1915.²⁸

In the 10 months (1 September 1915–7 June 1916) that the 9th Battalion was at the Front, Regimental Sergeant Major Bonney reported that it had experienced its full share of hard fighting. He felt that the recruits had the very great advantage of serving under officers who spared no pains to increase the efficiency of the battalion. This training was tested almost immediately when the battalion went into action at Loos, France, on 25–27 September 1915.

The Battle of Loos was the biggest British attack of 1915, the first time that the British used poison gas and the first mass engagement of the new army units.²⁹ The 9th Battalion, which was divided into four companies (A, B, C, and D), was ordered to hold Fosse 8. Two companies were assigned to trenches in front of an enormous slag heap, while the other two companies were posted on top of the slag heap in two parallel lines. The order to withdraw did not reach the men in the trenches, who were in danger of being surrounded. For three days they survived without food, water and sleep. They fought their way out, resulting in 381 casualties.³⁰ Bonney felt that it was a tremendous christening for a young battalion.³¹

From there, the 9th Battalion was stationed in the trenches of the Ypres Salient area of Belgium, where it remained through the first half of 1916, involved in day-to-day trench warfare, shelling, sniper fire and small skirmishes. Rest periods from the forward trench area were taken in cellars or barracks at Ypres or Poperinge. A gift of cigarettes and peppermints arrived on 2 February 1916 from the Royal Sussex Soldiers Cigarette and Comfort Fund.³²

On 13–14 February 1916 the battalion suffered heavy casualties at Hooze, on the Ypres–Menin Road. Sergeant Major Bonney reported that the battalion was in trenches only 80 yards (73 m) from the German line. The enemy shelled them for 13 hours, then attacked but were pushed back. The men of the 9th advanced to a crater and dragged a machine gun in with them. They wired the place and made the position stronger.³³ During the shelling a D Company platoon was buried alive.³⁴ On 15 February the 9th Battalion recorded five officers and 134 other ranks as casualties.³⁵ Besides injuries from shelling and sniper fire, illness also plagued the battalion. On 16 February the officers had difficulty finding 200 men for a working party. Many were ill and had been sent to hospital.

During March, April, May and June of 1916 the battalion continued the routine of being in and out of the front-line trenches. March was recorded as cold with a good deal of snow. In April, the battalion was in trenches near Kortepyp. Sydney would probably have attended the Easter Sunday service on 23 April conducted by the chaplain, Reverend M. Dodd, who had made his way to the Front.³⁶

On 28 and 30 April 1916 the gas alarms sounded. The first was a false alarm but on 30 April, the enemy sent a gas cloud of chlorine and phosgene toward the allies at Wulverghem, about 4 km from Kortepyp. The enemy attacked the left flank of the 9th Battalion but were driven back. By 14 May the 9th Battalion was in the trenches at Stinking Farm, where there were a few casualties throughout the day. Then on 28 May it was in the trenches at La Plus Douve Farm, where it was shelled every half hour in the evening. The following days, 29–31 May, were listed as quiet. The battalion was relieved and moved back to Red Lodge at the north-western edge of Ploegsteert Wood.

The battalion was back in the trenches by 12 June. The days were recorded as quiet until Saturday, 17 June, when at 12:30 a.m., the enemy launched a gas attack in three consecutive waves lasting 40 minutes. This was followed by heavy bombardment and machine gun fire. Although the men wore their gas helmets, there were casualties, one of whom was Private Sydney Luscombe. Sydney was taken to No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station (CCS) at Bailleul, France, which admitted 591 casualties on 17 June. On that day, 16 soldiers died.³⁷ Sydney was one of them, succumbing to the effects of the poisonous gas.³⁸

Louisa was informed of the death of her youngest child. His savings were divided between her and his brother Lawrence. On 6 October 1916, she received £1 14s and Lawrence received 13s 3d. For the death of her son, Louisa was awarded a 10s pension on 12 June 1917. This amount was reduced to 7s 2d on 21 February 1924.³⁹ She also received a war gratuity of £5 on 1 December 1919.⁴⁰

Private Sydney Luscombe was buried at Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord (Grave/Memorial Reference II. B. 188).⁴¹ Bailleul is in France, close to the Belgian border. It was occupied on 14 October 1914 and became an important railhead, air depot and hospital centre. Several casualty clearing stations, including No. 1 Canadian CCS, were quartered there. The earliest Commonwealth burials at Bailleul were made in April 1915. An extension was built and burials continued until April 1918; they occurred again in September and after the Armistice, when soldiers' remains were brought in from the neighbouring battlefields.

Sydney was posthumously awarded the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre), the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918) and the 1914–15 Star (for serving in a theatre of war between 4 August 1914 and 31 December 1915).⁴² As next of kin, his mother also received a memorial plaque and a parchment scroll.

Private Sydney Luscombe must have been mourned by his mother and siblings. Would they have been consoled by the words of Sergeant Major Bonney, who said that “if we say that the men of the 9th Sussex can claim that they have tried to do their duty and not to fall below the standard set by other gallant regiments at the Front we shall be paying them the highest tribute they could desire”?⁴³ His sacrifice was noted. Sydney's name (along with the names of the 6,800 other regimental casualties from the Great War) has been recorded on panels in the Royal Sussex Regimental Chapel, Chapel of St. George, Chichester Cathedral.⁴⁴

The social conventions of the day demanded that the bereaved accept their losses quietly and stoically. Their world continued without Sydney. Both his brothers served in the war and survived.

Lawrence enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force at Melbourne in September 1915. He married Louise Annie Hawkins on 22 December 1917 in Australia.⁴⁵ **William John** enlisted in the Royal Navy in July 1917.⁴⁶

Sydney's mother Louisa lived with **Edith**, her husband Albert George and their son Philip Albert Thorpe⁴⁷ for many years at 63 Norfolk Rd., Essex Rd., Islington, London.⁴⁸ After Edith and Albert George divorced, she continued to live with Edith;⁴⁹ on the eve of another war in 1939, Louisa and Edith were living at 63 Mitchison Road, Islington.⁵⁰ At that time Albert George was retired and living at 31 Smith Street, Chelsea, London.⁵¹ He volunteered as an air raid warden and died on 14 September 1940 when a bomb destroyed the Church of the Holy Redeemer.⁵²

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¹ "Some British Army Statistics of the Great War," *The Long, Long Trail Researching soldiers of the British Army in the Great War 1914–1919* (<https://www.longlongtrail.co.uk/army/some-british-army-statistics-of-the-great-war>: accessed 3 February 2021)

² "Copy of an entry of birth," *General Register Office* (https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/order_history.asp: accessed 9 February 2021), entry for Sydney Luscombe, GRO Reference: 1895, D Quarter in Islington, Volume: 01B, Page: 344, Name and Surname of Father: William Henry Luscombe, Name and Maiden Surname of Mother: Louisa Luscombe formerly Rolfe, When registered: 11 October 1895

³ *Births, Deaths and Marriages Victoria* (<https://www.bdm.vic.gov.au>: accessed 3 February 2021), entry for William Henry Luscombe, Year: 1859, Birth place: Heathcote, Registration number: 3715/1859, State: Victoria, Australia, Mother's name: Elizabeth Matthews; "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index 1916–2007," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 28 January 2021), entry for William Henry Luscombe, Registration year: 1913, Registration quarter: Apr-May-Jun, Registration district: Islington, Inferred county: London, Volume: 1b, Page: 428, Age at death: 54

⁴ "London, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813–1917," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 4 February 2021), entry for Louisa Ralfe [*sic*], Record type: Baptism, Baptism date: 19 Apr 1857, Baptism place: England, Newington St. Mary, Southwark, Father: William Henry Ralfe [*sic*], Mother: Mary Ann Ralfe [*sic*], Register type: Parish Registers; "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1916–2007," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 3 February 2021), entry for Louisa Luscombe, Registration district: Islington, Inferred county: London, Volume: 5c, Page: 936

⁵ "1881 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 4 February 2021), entry for William H. Luscombe, Registration district: Shoreditch, Sub-registration district: Hoxton New Town, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 5, Piece: 388, Folio: 111, Page: 17. **Note:** William's age was given as 38. In other documents, his year of birth was recorded as 1859. Australia is recorded as his place of birth in all sources.

⁶ "London, England, Church of England Marriages and Banns, 1754–1932," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 4 February 2021), entry for Louisa Rolfe, Record type: Marriage, Marriage date: 8 Mar 1884, Marriage place: St. Leonard, Shoreditch, Hackney, England, Spouse: William Henry Luscombe, Register type: Parish Register. **Note:** William recorded his father's name as William Henry Luscombe.

⁷ "GRO Indexes, 1837–1918 Births," *General Register Office* (https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes_search.asp: accessed 4 February 2021), entry for Jessie Louisa Luscombe, GRO Reference: 1885, J Quarter in Shoreditch, Volume: 01C, Page: 92, Mother's maiden surname: Rolfe; "GRO Indexes 1837–1957 Deaths," *General Register Office* (https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes_search.asp: accessed 4 February 2021), entry for Jessie Louisa Luscombe, GRO Reference: 1886, M Quarter in Shoreditch, Volume: 01C, Page: 97, Age: 0

⁸ "GRO Indexes, 1837–1918 Births," *General Register Office* (https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes_search.asp: accessed 4 February 2021), entry for William John Luscombe, GRO Reference: 1887, D Quarter in Shoreditch, Volume: 05B, Page: 91, Mother's maiden surname: Rolfe; "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1916–2007," *Ancestry*

(www.ancestry.com: accessed 16 February 2021), entry for William John Luscombe, Registration district: Sittingbourne, Inferred county: Kent, Volume: 16, Page: 1708

⁹ "GRO Indexes, 1837–1918 Births," *General Register Office*

(https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes_search.asp: accessed 4 February 2021), entry for Alice Kate Luscombe, GRO Reference: 1890, M Quarter in Islington, Volume: 01B, Page: 381, Mother's maiden surname: Rolfe; "GRO Indexes 1837–1957 Deaths," *General Register Office*

(https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes_search.asp: accessed 4 February 2021), entry for Alice Kate Luscombe, GRO Reference: 1892, D Quarter in Islington, Volume: 01B, Page: 233, Age: 2

¹⁰ "GRO Indexes, 1837–1918 Births," *General Register Office*

(https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes_search.asp: accessed 4 February 2021), entry for Lawrence Luscombe, GRO Reference: 1892, J Quarter in Islington, Volume: 01B, Page: 374, Mother's maiden surname: Rolfe; "Northern Territory Anglican Burials 1908–1968," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 15 February 2021), entry for Laurence [sic] Luscombe, Death date: 26.01.1940, Occupation: wireless operator; "Death of Mr. L. Luscombe," *Northern Standard*, 30 January 1940, p. 12, *TROVE, National Library of Australia* (<https://trove.nla.gov.au/search/advanced/category/newspapers>: accessed 10 February 2021); "Family Notices," *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 31 January 1940, p. 12, *TROVE, National Library of Australia* (<https://trove.nla.gov.au/search/advanced/category/newspapers>: accessed 10 February 2021)

¹¹ "GRO Indexes 1837–1918 Births," *General Register Office*

(https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes_search.asp: accessed 4 February 2021), entry for Edith Luscombe, GRO Reference: 1893, D Quarter in Islington, Volume: 01B, Page: 361, Mother's maiden surname: Rolfe; "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1916–2007," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 16 February 2021), entry for Edith Thorpe, Registration district: Islington, Inferred county: Greater London, Volume: 5c, Page: 1792

¹² "1891 England, Wales & Scotland Census," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 4 February 2021), entry for William H. Luscombe, Registration district: Islington, Archive reference: RG12, Piece number: 170, Folio: 56, Page: 36

¹³ *Family Tree Researcher* (<https://www.familyresearcher.co.uk/glossary/Dictionary-of-Old-Occupations-jobs-beginning-S8.html>: accessed 4 February 2021)

¹⁴ "1901 England, Wales & Scotland Census," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 4 February 2021), entry for William H. Luscombe, Registration district: Islington, Archive reference: RG13, Piece: 191, Folio: 124, Page: 33

¹⁵ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 4 February 2021), entry for William John Luscombe, Registration district: Islington, Inferred county: London, Volume: 1b, Page: 610, Spouse: Bertha Barker Mitchell

¹⁶ "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 4 February 2021), entry for William John Luscombe, Registration district: Milton, Registration district number: 61, Sub-registration district: Milton, Enumeration district: 23, Piece: 4439

¹⁷ "1911 England, Wales & Scotland Census," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 8 February 2021), entry for Sydney Luscombe, Registration district: Islington, Registration district number: 10, Sub-district: Islington South East, Sub-district number: 6, Enumeration district: 10, Piece: 912

¹⁸ "Copy of an entry of death," *General Register Office*

(https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/order_history.asp: accessed 9 February 2021), entry for William Henry Luscombe, GRO Reference: 1913, M Quarter in Islington, Volume: 01B, Page: 428, When and where died: 15 January 1913, 28 Sherborne Street, Age: 54, Rank or profession: engine fitter, journeyman, Cause of death: enteric fever, Signature, description and residence of informant: widow of the deceased, 28 Sherborne Street, Islington

¹⁹ "Passenger Lists Leaving UK 1890–1960," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 15 February 2021), entry for L. Luscombe, Occupation: telegraphist

²⁰ "Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914–1919," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 22 February 2021), entry for Sydney Luscombe, Service number: G/5372. **Note:** Because Sydney Luscombe's service record did not survive the 1940 fire at the Army Records Office, Walworth, London, his military career was pieced together using a number of sources.

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- ²¹ “War Gratuity Calculator,” (<https://wargratiuity.wordpress.com/2015/08/16/gratuity-calculator>: accessed 15 February 2017)
- ²² “Childers Reforms,” WIKIPEDIA (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Childers_Reforms: accessed 11 May 2021)
- ²³ Paul Reed, “9th Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment – WW1,” *Royal Sussex Regiment WW1 Battalions Histories* (<http://battlefields1418.50megs.com/9sussex.htm>: accessed 16 February 2021)
- ²⁴ Ibid.
- ²⁵ “9th Royal Sussex,” *Eastbourne Gazette*, 7 June 1916, p. 8, *The British Newspaper Archive* (www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk: accessed 22 March 2017)
- ²⁶ “London, England, Church of England Marriages and Banns, 1754–1931,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 8 February 2021), entry for Edith Luscombe, Record type: Marriage, Marriage date: 28 July 1915, Marriage place: Saint Margaret Lothbury, City of London, Father: William Henry Luscombe, Spouse: Albert George Thorpe; UK, British Army World War 1 Service Records,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 14 February 2021), entry for Albert George Thorpe, Regiment name: Royal Army Medical Corps
- ²⁷ “British Army WW1 Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914–1920,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 11 February 2021), entry for Sydney Luscombe, Regimental number: G/5372
- ²⁸ “UK, WW1 War Diaries (France, Belgium and Germany), 1914–1920,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 13 February 2021), entry for 24th Division, Sub-unit: Royal Sussex Regiment, Piece: 2219/2: 9th Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment (1915 August–1919 May) entry for 3 September 1915. **Note:** Unless otherwise identified, all information about the 9th Battalion’s movements comes from this source.
- ²⁹ “Battle of Loos,” *Wikipedia* (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Loos: accessed 25 April 2017)
- ³⁰ Paul Reed, “9th Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment – WW1,” *Royal Sussex Regiment WW1 Battalions Histories* (<http://battlefields1418.50megs.com/9sussex.htm>: accessed 20 February 2021), Summary of Casualties
- ³¹ “9th Royal Sussex,” *Eastbourne Gazette*, 7 June 1916, p. 8, *The British Newspaper Archive* (www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk: accessed 22 March 2017)
- ³² “UK, WW1 War Diaries (France, Belgium and Germany), 1914–1920,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 13 April 2017), entry for 24th Division, Sub-unit: Royal Sussex Regiment, Piece: 2219/2: 9th Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment (1915 August–1919 May), entry for 2 February 1916
- ³³ “9th Royal Sussex,” *Eastbourne Gazette*, 7 June 1916
- ³⁴ “UK, WW1 War Diaries (France, Belgium and Germany), 1914–1920,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 13 November 2018), entry for 24th Division, Sub-unit: Royal Sussex Regiment, Piece: 2219/2: 9th Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment (1915 August–1919 May), entry for 14 February 1916
- ³⁵ Ibid., entry for 15 February 1916
- ³⁶ “9th Royal Sussex,” *Eastbourne Gazette*, 7 June 1916
- ³⁷ “War Diaries of the First World War: 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station 1914/08/13–19/03/31,” *Library and Archives Canada* (<http://central.bac-lac.gc.ca/.redirect?app=fonandcol&id=2005082&lang=eng&new=-8585813524938744334>: accessed 5 May 2021), entry for 17 June 1916
- ³⁸ “No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station,” *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* (www.bifhsgo.ca: accessed 3 February 2021), entry for Luscombe, S.
- ³⁹ “UK, WW1 Pension Ledgers and Index Cards, 1914–1923,” *Fold3* (www.fold3.com: accessed 22 May 2020), entry for Sydney Luscombe, Service number: 5372
- ⁴⁰ “UK, Army Registers of Soldiers’ Effects, 1901–1929,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 8 February 2021), entry for Sydney Luscombe, Service number: G/5372
- ⁴¹ *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/200432/SYDNEY%20LUSCOMBE>: accessed 14 February 2021), entry for Sydney Luscombe
- ⁴² “British Army WW1 Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914–1920,” *Ancestry*, entry for Sydney Luscombe
- ⁴³ “9th Royal Sussex,” *Eastbourne Gazette*, 7 June 1916
- ⁴⁴ “St. George’s Chapel,” *Royal Sussex Living History Group* (www.royalsussex.org.uk/sussex-war-memorials/st-georges-chapel: accessed 15 February 2021)

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- ⁴⁵ "First Australian Imperial Force Personnel Dossiers, 1914–1920," *National Archives of Australia* (<https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=8213320>: accessed 16 February 2021), entry for Laurence [sic] Luscombe, Service number: 1764, NAA: B2455
- ⁴⁶ UK, Royal Navy Registers of Seamen's Services, 1848–1939," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 16 February 2021), entry for William John Luscombe, Service number: J73374
- ⁴⁷ "GRO Indexes, 1837–1918 Births," *General Register Office* (https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes_search.asp: accessed 4 February 2021), entry for Philip Albert Thorpe, GRO Reference: 1916, M Quarter in Islington, Volume: 01B, Page: 485, Mother's maiden surname: Luscombe
- ⁴⁸ "London, England, Electoral Registers 1832–1965," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 16 February 2021), entry for Louisa Luscombe, Electoral Year: 1919, 1920, 1922
- ⁴⁹ "London, England, Electoral Registers 1832–1965," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 16 February 2021), entry for Louisa Luscombe, Electoral Year: 1937
- ⁵⁰ "1939 England and Wales Register," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 17 February 2021), entry for Edith Thorpe, Schedule number: 88, Sub-schedule number: 2, Enumeration district: ALJG, Registration district: 10-3
- ⁵¹ "1939 England and Wales Register," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 8 May 2021), entry for Albert Geo Thorpe, Schedule number: 53, Sub-schedule number: 1, Enumeration district: AFBN, Registration district: 5/1
- ⁵² "UK, World War II Civilian Deaths, 1939–1945," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 6 May 2021), entry for Albert George Thorpe, Estimated birth year: 1894, Death date: 14 September 1940, Death place: Chelsea, London, England, Father: Joseph Thorpe, Mother: Harriet Thorpe