

# Sydney "Sam" Frank Kemp

**Service Number:** 452604

**Rank:** Lieutenant

**Branch:** 58th Batallion

**War:** World War 1

**Years Served:** 1916 - 1918

**Summary:** According to the SS Montrose ship's manifest he appears to have come the Strathroy in 1912 to serve as a farm labourer. Another record shows him joining the 11th Hussars as a private 10 Oct 1914. In 1916 at London England he married Eva Wisdom. The next reference is from the London Gazette.

“16 Sept 1918- 2nd Lt. Sydney Frank Kemp Oxfords and Bucks Light Infantry is awarded the Military Cross for conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He made several daring reconnaissances, penetrating far into the enemy's country and bringing back information of the greatest value. He displayed a fine example of gallantry and disregard of personal danger.”

He was killed 16 Apr 1918 and is buried in St Venant-Robecq Road British Cemetery, Robecq.

**Name:** Sydney "Sam" Frank Kemp

**Birth Date:** July 23, 1891

**Relatives:** Mother - Mary Ellen Kemp

**Birth Place:** Workington, Cumberland, England

**Address:** 190 Bee St., Todmorden, Toronto, ON

**Attestation Date:** July 30, 1915

**Death Date:** Presumed to be December 7, 1918

**Burial Site:** St. Venant-Robecq Rd., British Cemetery, Robecq, France

**Memorial Site:** Strathroy Cemetery

<b>Date</b>	<b>Particulars</b>
	Card - Lieut., Kemp, Sam 58 <sup>th</sup> Btn Theatre France 20 months 20 Feb 1916 to 7 Dec 1918, Mrs. Mary E Kemp (Mother) 190 Bee St Todmorden Toronto On Large red "D" stamped on card.
	Card - Kemp, Sam , Regimental number 452604 (stroked out), Rank L Cpl stroked out and Lieut 9 Oct 1918, former corps GGBG Field Artillery England , Next of Kin Mrs Mary Ellen Kemp, mother 190 Bee St Todmorden ON, Born England Workington Cumberland , attested Toronto On 4 Aug 1915, overseas 22 Nov 1915.
<b>30 July 1915</b>	Medical history sheet 5'8" 156 lbs , feet slightly flat, steel worker, Fair complexion, Blue eyes, brown hair.
<b>30 July 1915</b>	Steel worker attested in at Toronto , born 23 July 1891, next of kin mother Mary Ellen Kemp 190 Bee Street, Todmorden, Toronto ON Previous military experience with Garrison and Field Artillery Medical Regimental number 452604
<b>2 Dec 1915</b>	Arrived England
<b>20 Feb 1916</b>	Embarked for France with the 58 <sup>th</sup> Btn
<b>24 Apr 1916</b>	No 3 Can. Gen Hosp. Boulogne Shrapnel Wound to his back transferred to England aboard HS Aberdonian
<b>30 Apr 1916</b>	Transferred to CCAC Folkstone Kent
<b>2 May 1916</b>	Grayling War Hospital Chichester
<b>2 May 1916</b>	TOS ( <i>Taken on Strength</i> ) CCAC ( <i>Canadian Casualty Assembly Centre</i> )
<b>4 May 1916</b>	Admitted to No 3 General Hospital Boulogne Apr 24 <sup>th</sup> wounded slightly back
<b>17 May 1916</b>	Canadian Convalescent Hosp Woodcote Epsom
<b>17 May 1916</b>	TOS from 58 <sup>th</sup> Btn hospital Woodcote Epsom
<b>9 Jun 1916</b>	Myalgia in legs No 3 Div. Re-Sty (?)
<b>14 Jun 1916</b>	Discharged from hospital Woodcote Epsom

<b>14 Jun 1916</b>	SOS ( <i>Struck off strength</i> ) CCAC to 54 <sup>th</sup> Btn France
<b>6 Jul 1916</b>	TOS 36 <sup>th</sup> Btn West Sandling
<b>18 July 1916</b>	TOS 58 <sup>th</sup> Btn in the field
<b>2 Sept 1916</b>	Promoted Corporal
<b>8 Oct 1916</b>	Reported from Base wounded
<b>16 Oct 1916</b>	Promoted Sergeant
<b>3 Nov 1916</b>	Report wounded returned to regt. duty Oct 8 <sup>th</sup> 1916
<b>1 Jan 1917</b>	No 18 Gen Hospital Cormiers PUO ( <i>Pyrexia of Unknown Origin</i> )
<b>5 Jan 1917</b>	Admitted #6 Convalescent hospital Etaples discharged 17 Jan 1917
<b>7 Jan 1917</b>	Discharged
<b>22 Jun 1917</b>	Admitted #7 Canadian Gen hosp (Trench fever) – discharged 26 Jun 1917
<b>9 Sept 1917</b>	Promoted Company Sergeant Major
<b>9 Sept 1917</b>	Promoted Warrant Officer #2
<b>1 Feb 1918</b>	Transferred to England with a view to obtaining a commission and posted to 2 <sup>nd</sup> CORD Shorncliffe
<b>5 Feb 1918</b>	TOS 2 CORD ( <i>Central Ontario Regimental Depot</i> ) East Sandling England
<b>13 Feb 1918</b>	Attached to 1 <sup>st</sup> CCD ( <i>Canadian Convalescent Depot / Canadian Corps Depot</i> )
<b>4 Mar 1918</b>	Attached for pay clothing k? St Martins Fld
<b>19 Apr 1918</b>	Attached to 1 CCD Whitley
<b>19 Apr 1918</b>	Attached to Reserve Btn Whitley
<b>12 July 1918</b>	Note on card received Croix de Guerre
<b>11 Aug 1918</b>	Promoted temporary Ltn
<b>22 Aug 1918</b>	Awarded Belgian Croix de Guerre
<b>20 Sept 1918</b>	TOS 58 <sup>th</sup> Btn France
<b>28 Sept 1918</b>	Joined 58 <sup>th</sup> in the field
<b>1 Oct 1918</b>	Reported as missing after action
<b>7 Nov 1918</b>	Reported as a prisoner of War
<b>9 Nov 1918</b>	Writes stating Prisoner of War at Parchim
<b>7 Dec 1918</b>	For official purposes 'presumed to have died 7 Dec 1918
<b>24 Dec 1918</b>	Died while a prisoner of War at Meschede on 4 Dec 1918
<b>28 Dec 1918</b>	Central Prisoner of War Committee London reports information received that Kemp died at Meschede Dec 9 <sup>th</sup> and was buried 11 Dec 1918.
<b>13 Jun 1922</b>	Medal Card – Belgian Croix de Guerre Medals and Decorations to Mrs. Mary E Kemp, Plaque and Scroll to Joseph Kemp (father) Cross of Sacrifice to mother. Note "not eligible for 1914-1915 Star"

**Attestation Paper:**

No. ~~52~~ 52604

Follo.

CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

QUESTIONS TO BE PUT BEFORE ATTESTATION.

1. What is your NAME?
2. In what Town, Township or Parish, and in what Country were you born?
3. What is the name of your next-of-kin?
4. What is the address of your next-of-kin?
5. What is the date of your birth?
6. What is your Trade or Calling?
7. Are you married?
8. Are you willing to be vaccinated or re-vaccinated?
9. Do you now belong to the Active Militia?
10. Have you ever served in any Military Force?  
*(If so, state particular of Service.)*
11. Do you understand the nature and terms of your engagement?
12. Are you willing to be attested to serve in the CANADIAN OVER SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE?

S. W. Kemp.  
Washington, Cumberland Eng.  
Harry Allen Kemp. (Mother)  
~~23rd July 1891~~ 1900  
23rd July 1891. (1900 Box 8)  
Steel worker. Jackson  
Re. Tontons

Mrs  
Mrs S. S. B. S.  
Mrs. J. J. Harrison - 90 Field  
17th Aug  
Mrs  
Mrs  
Mrs. G. G. G. (Signature of Man).  
S. J. J. J. (Signature of Witness).

DECLARATION TO BE MADE BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I, John Kemp, do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and that I am willing to fulfil the engagements by me now made, and I thereby engage and agree to serve in the Canadian Over-Sea Expeditionary Force, and to be attached to any arm of the service therein, for the term of one year, or during the war now existing between Great Britain and Germany should that war last longer than one year, and for six months after the termination of that war provided His Majesty should so long require my services, or until legally discharged.

Date 30/7/15 1915 Sam Kemp (Signature of Recruit)  
G. Hamilton (Signature of Witness)

OATH TO BE TAKEN BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

1. John Kemp do make Oath, that I will be faithful and bear true Allegiance to His Majesty King George the Fifth, His Heirs and Successors, and that I will as in duty bound honestly and faithfully defend His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, in Person, Crown and Dignity, against all enemies, and will observe and obey all orders of His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, and of all the Generals and Officers set over me. O help me God.

Date 830/7/15 191 . Sam Kemp (Signature of Recruit)  
W. H. Hamilton (Signature of Witness)

CERTIFICATE OF MAGISTRATE.

The Recruit above-named was cautioned by me that if he made any false answer to any of the above questions he would be liable to be punished as provided in the Army Act.

I have taken care that he understands each question, and that his answer to each question has been duly entered as replied to, and the said Recruit has made and signed the declaration and taken the oath before me, at Mobile, Ala. this 4 day of August 1918

Tell me, at Twelve <sup>o'clock</sup> 12 day of August 1918  
Wm. May (Signature of Justice)

I certify that the above is a true copy of the Attestation of the above-named Recruit.

*R. W. Joyce* (Approving Officer)

*Sam Kemp*  
Description of *Sam Kemp* on Enlistment.

Apparent Age: *26* years *0* months.  
(To be extended according to the instructions given in the Regulations for Army Medical Services.)

Height: *5* ft. *8* ins.  
 Girth when fully expanded: *36* ins.  
 Range of expansion: *3* ins.  
 Complexion: *Fair*  
 Eyes: *Blue*  
 Hair: *Brown*

Religious denominations:  
 Church of England: *yes*  
 Presbyterian  
 Wesleyan  
 Baptist or Congregationalist  
 Other Protestants (denomination to be stated):  
 Roman Catholic  
 Jewish

Distinctive marks, and marks indicating congenital peculiarities or previous disease.  
Should the Medical Officer be of opinion that the recruit has several tattoos, he will insert the words "tattooed" in the margin opposite the appropriate column, for the information of the Approving Officer.

**CERTIFICATE OF MEDICAL EXAMINATION.**

I have examined the above-named Recruit and find that he does not present any of the causes of rejection specified in the Regulations for Army Medical Services.  
 He can see at the required distance with either eye; his heart and lungs are healthy; he has the free use of his joints and limbs, and he declares that he is not subject to fits of any description.  
 I consider him\* *Fit* for the Canadian Over-Seas Expeditionary Force.  
 Date: *30th July* 191*5*  
 Place: *Toronto Ont* *James M. M. M. M.* Medical Officer.  
\*Insert here "fit" or "unfit."  
Note.—Should the Medical Officer consider the Recruit unfit, he will fill in the foregoing Certificate only in the case of those who have been attached, and will briefly state below the cause of rejection.

**CERTIFICATE OF OFFICER COMMANDING UNIT.**

*Sam Kemp* having been finally approved and inspected by me this day, and his Name, Age, Date of Attestation, and every prescribed particular having been recorded, I certify that I am satisfied with the correctness of this Attestation.  
 Date: *Aug 5* 191*5* *S. J. Keck* (Signature of Officer)  
*75th Bn CEF*

Casualty Form:





—A letter was received by Thomas Benstead recently from Mrs. Kemp, of London, England, which confirmed the reported death of her son, Lieut. Sydney Kemp, of the Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry. Lieut. Kemp who was a reservist, formerly resided in Strathroy. He joined the colors shortly after the declaration of war, and spent four birthdays and four Christmas days in the service.

Canada is cheered by the news

It appears, after some searching and with much thanks to the members of the Canadian Expeditionary Force Discussion Group, that Ltn Kemp emigrated to Canada aboard the SS Montrose from Ireland in April 1912. He was 27 years old at the time and came with 2 other Kemps, Edward 15 and Edgard (?) age 38. Of note is that his destination was Strathroy. Also stamped on his line is C.G.E.A. which stands for Canadian Government Employment Agent. The LAC states that "these agents received commissions from the government for placing newly arrived immigrants with employers who were seeking labourers or domestics." He is listed as a farmer labourer on the manifest.

He must have returned to England, because another record of him shows he joined the 11<sup>th</sup> Hussars as a private 10 Oct 1914.

A Sydney Kemp returned to England  
Birth abt. 1884  
29 years  
Port Departure: St. John, N.B.  
Arrival Date: Dec. 24, 1913  
Port Arrival: Bristol, U.K.  
Ship: SS Royal George  
Canadian Northern Line

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Official Number 125643

There is record of him marrying Eva Wisdom in 1916 at Lambeth London England and a birth record of Sydney Frank Kemp in March 1885 at Camberwell London England



The next mention of him is in the London Gazette as a recipient of the Military Cross

19074 SUPPLEMENT TO THE LONDON GAZETTE, 16 SEPTEMBER, 1918.

*2nd Lt. Sydney Frank Kemp,  
Oxf. & Bucks.L.I.  
For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to  
duty. He made several daring reconnaissances,  
penetrating far into the enemy's  
country and bringing back information of  
the greatest value. He displayed a fine  
example of gallantry and disregard of personal  
danger.*

His medal card shows he was entitled to wear the 1914 Mons Star, the British War Medal and Victory medal beside the Military Cross. Medals were sent to his widow in Rochester Kent. He was commissioned a 2<sup>nd</sup> Ltn to the Oxfordshire and Buck Light Infantry 2/4 Battalion 25 Sept 1917.

One correspondent reported that he is mentioned in The History of the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry 2/4th Battalion by Rose in Chapter XV The Battle of the Lys April/May, 1918

<http://central.bac-lac.gc.ca/.redirect?app=pffww&id=484910&lang=eng>