



Sydney Harry Shaw – National Fire Service

National Fire Service

Born October 16th August 1892, Desford,
Leicestershire

Died 9th April 1941, aged 47
London Road Cemetery, Coventry
Mass Grave for the Coventry Blitz

Son of Mr George and Mrs Annie Shaw

Burbage War Memorial
St Catherine's Church Memorial



Sydney Harry Shaw was born on 16th August 1892, the 4th of 7 children of George and Annie Shaw of Desford. By 1911, Harry is employed as a Pony Driver at Desford Colliery.

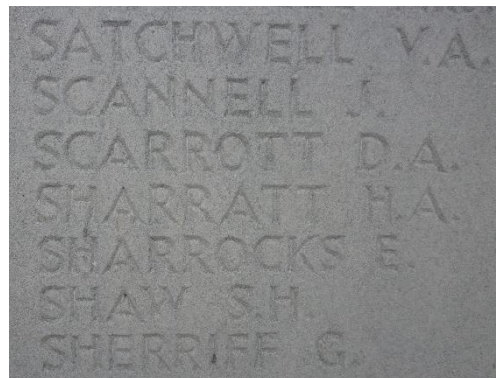
On 27th December 1913, Harry marries Elizabeth Barrett of Burbage and by the time of the 1939 census, Harry is employed as a Hosiery Maker and is living at 21 Flamville Road with his wife and 9 of their 12 children.

At the time of his death, Sydney was employed as a Fireman at a factory in Ansty, near Coventry, which assembled mosquito aircraft for the war effort, this is now Rolls Royce.

These factories produced aircraft under the governments "shadow scheme" using technology transfer and the manufacturing facilities of the motor industry to produce aircraft for the war effort.

Having survived World War 1 with a shrapnel injury to his ankle, during World War 2 Sydney was injured whilst working at Ansty and was taken to hospital at Walsgrave and was killed during the Coventry Blitz when the Coventry & Warwickshire Hospital was bombed on 9th April 1941.

Sydney is laid to rest in a mass grave at London Road Cemetery, Coventry of 808 people who were killed in the bombings during November 1940 and April 1941.





The Civilian Monument at London Road, Cemetery



Mass Grave in London Road Cemetery

SHAW, SYDNEY HARRY, age 47. Husband of Elizabeth Shaw, of 21 Flamville Road, Burbage, Leicestershire. 9 April 1941, at Coventry and Warwickshire Hospital.

SMITH, ARTHUR, age 36; of 26 Coleridge Road. Son of Mrs. Smith, of 54 Bridgeman Road; husband of Margaret Ettie Smith. 14 November 1940, at 26 Coleridge Road.

WARWICKSHIRE
Coventry
C.B.

Civilian War Dead



St. George's Chapel In Westminster Abbey

Location: England, London

Of the many civilians of the Commonwealth whose deaths were due to enemy action in the 1939-1945 War, the names of more than 67,000 are commemorated in the Civilian War Dead Roll of Honour, located near St. George's Chapel in Westminster Abbey, London.

Civilian War Dead



De Havilland Mosquito Assembly – Coventry

The Coventry Blitz – April 1941

On the night of 8/9 April 1941 Coventry was subject to another large air raid when 230 bombers attacked the city, dropping 315 tons of high explosive and 25,000 incendiaries. In this and another raid two nights later on 10/11 April about 451 people were killed and over 700 seriously injured. Damage was caused to many buildings including some factories, the central police station, the Coventry & Warwickshire Hospital, King Henry VIII School, and St. Mary's Hall. The main architectural casualty of the raid was Christ Church, most of which was destroyed, leaving only the spire.¹ It was after this raid that the then-Mayor of Coventry, Alfred Robert Grindlay, led the early reconstruction of much of the city centre.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coventry_Blitz#April_1941

A transcript from an interview with his wife, Elizabeth Shaw (ES) and David Wood (DW) of 17th November 1987.

ES *My husband got killed in the war. Well he didn't get killed in the war, he got killed with a bomb.*

DW *What, the Second World War?*

ES *Yeah.*

DW *Where was he?*

ES. *Coventry. Bombed at Walsgrave. He worked at Ansty and they were putting a propeller on an aeroplane. They got a big, like, well say spanner, I don't know what you'd call it, and the man, the other side to me husband, let his hand go, let his end go and it hit him in the eye. So, he came into Walsgrave Hospital. Now, when the nurse came to see me, as he were in there, came from Ansty. She said I feel guilty, she said because your husband was best in Coventry. If we'd have got a car then, he'd have said he wanted to go to another hospital, they'd have taken him to Rugby. On the night that I were there, the last night, I said I'll try and get you out of here, get you transferred. I went for the matron but she were in the operating theatre and she couldn't come, so I said well I'll see you next.... I'll see you next then. Ah I did. They were killed that night nurses, doctors, patients as well. Left me with five going to school.*
