

**Stanley Pierce**  
**1893 – 1916, age at death 23**  
**Student at the Society of the Sacred Mission**

Stanley was born High Wycombe in 1893. His parents were Timothy Pierce, who in 1901 was a commercial clerk and Mary (nee Howland). At that time, they lived at 232 Hughenden Road and Stanley had two older sisters, Mary and Margaret, and a younger brother, Walter, living at home; though there were two further siblings who had left home by then.

By 1911, the family had moved to Queen's Road into a 6-roomed house. Stanley's father was now working a commercial traveller in the 'chair trade'. One of his sisters had left home, the other sister was a school teacher and his brother a solicitor's clerk. Stanley himself was working as a Railway Clerk for the Great Western Railway.

He joined the Society of the Sacred Mission as a Novice in September 1913, age 20, and was in the first year of his theological training when he enlisted in April 1915.

### **Military History**

Stanley served as a private in the 21<sup>st</sup> Bn Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment) but was expecting to be commissioned. He was killed in action on 26 February 1916 and is buried in the Cambrin Churchyard Extension, France.

According to the Society's quarterly Newsletter, he was in a crater, throwing a bomb, when he was hit by a sniper and died instantly. He is described as

One of the best fellows in the world. Every one in the platoon liked him and respected him because he set such a good example to us all.

### **SOURCES**

FindMyPast <https://www.findmypast.co.uk/>

Nottinghamshire Great War Roll of Honour: <http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/rollofhonour/>

Commonwealth War Graves Commission: <https://www.cwgc.org/>

Forces War Records website: <https://www.forces-war-records.co.uk/>

Society of the Sacred Mission Quarterly Newsletter, Borthwick Institute:  
<https://www.york.ac.uk/borthwick/>