

Fishergate, Fulford & Heslington
Local History Society

FISHERGATE SCHOOL



Photograph taken on 9th August 1895, eight days after the school opened, with the Headmaster, George Barker on the right and possibly Edward Hope Hawthorne on the left. *Photo courtesy York Explore*

GREAT WAR MEMORIAL

REMEMBERING THE 86
FORMER PUPILS

EDWARD MADDISON (MAX) DOVE

1895 - 1918

39452 PRIVATE

INNS OF COURT OFFICERS TRAINING CORPS and
1120954/4 LIEUTENANT 8th BATTALION EAST
SURREY REGIMENT



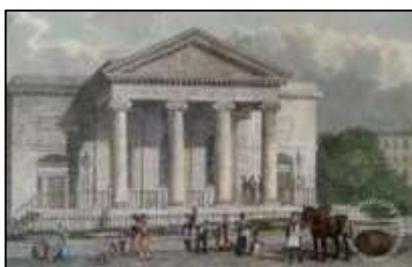
The person named 'Max Dove' has proved elusive, but several pieces of information suggest 'Max' may have been a nick name and we therefore believe his given name was Edward Maddison Dove. This is his story.

Edward was born on 6th June 1895, the youngest son of Charles Dove and his wife Frances. Charles had been born in 1853 in Wragby, Lincolnshire and his wife Frances, in 1861 in Durham; and were married in September 1886 in Durham. They had three sons: Charles Kingsley born 1886 in Addingham (near Ilkley, West Yorkshire); Sidney Ernest born 1889 possibly in Ilkley or Addingham; and Edward Maddison born 1895 in Liverpool.

Charles, their father became a Wesleyan Minister in 1878 and appears to have moved around the Country from Chapel to Chapel.

In the 1891 Census they lived at 104 Byrkley Street in Burton on Trent where the older boy Charles Kingsley was aged 4 and Sydney Ernest (2).

By 1901 the Census records their home at 50 Cross Lane Newton in Markerfield (near Liverpool) where Edward Maddison had been born and was now aged 5.



They had a downstairs live-in servant and Charles was minister at the Chapel at Brunswick, an impressive and large building.

(photo from www.liverpoolcitygroup.com)

There was a Wesleyan Conference in York in 1908 at the Centenary Chapel in St Saviourgate which Charles attended. The Chapel is shown on the souvenir card.

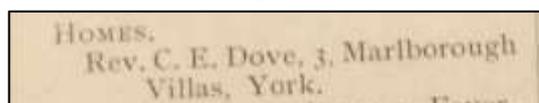
Further investigations at the Borthwick Institute, York uncovered archives pertaining to the 1908 Conference and a public meeting in York which the Reverend Charles Dove attended. (see methodistmaidenhead.org).



There was a souvenir poster and other evidence that Charles E Dove had been involved with the planning of the series of services and meetings.



This archive provides evidence that the Dove family actually lived in York, because in the detailed list of departmental secretaries, their address is provided: The Reverend C. E. Dove lived at 3 Marlborough Villas, York.





Marlborough Villas faces the River Ouse and is accessed from Marlborough Grove. It is an imposing three-storey building in a short terrace, with magnificent views onto the New Walk and over the River Ouse

Their home was close to Fishergate School; and 1908 was the correct date for Edward's attendance, aged 13.

All three boys eventually went to the Wesleyan Kingswood School in Bath. The school had been founded in 1748 by John Wesley and was a private school for the children of Wesleyan ministers.

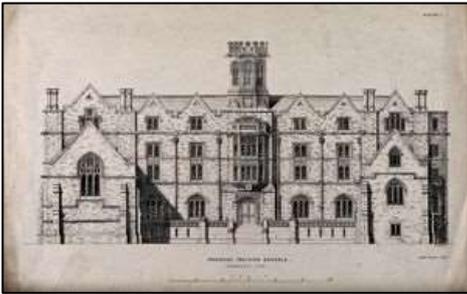
The building was used by the Navy during WW2 and 'Mulberry Harbour' for the D-Day invasion was designed there.
(photo from www.bathintime.co.uk)



By 1911 circumstances had changed. Charles aged 58 and Frances (50) were living in Leytonstone in north-east London, again with a live-in servant. The oldest son, Charles Kingsley, was a teacher in Manchester at the Wesleyan Theological College. Their middle son, Sydney Ernest, a clerk, was back at home. The youngest, Edward Maddison aged 15 was at Kingswood Wesleyan School in Bath.

In 1923, the parents. Charles and Francis moved to Maidstone, Kent. Charles predeceased his wife and died in 1935 at the age of 82 and Frances died in March 1942 aged 81 when she was living in Bromley, Kent, not far from London.

All three sons joined the army in WW1, but only the eldest, Charles Kingsley, survived, and he lived until 1970. Sydney joined the 8th Brigade of the Queens own Royal West Kent Regiment and was killed in action on the 16th August 1916; and Edward died in 1918.



After Edward left school he attended Westminister College in London. This had been founded in 1851 to train Wesleyan teachers under the auspices of John Wesley and his successors. The site near Spitalfields had been chosen to provide both teaching opportunities and educational facilities for the children from the many poor families in that area.

It seems that subsequently Edward went onto train as a barrister at the Inns of Court, London, because he joined the Inns of Court Officers Training Corps as a private. Here he would undergo basic training.
(photos from London.wikia.com and Wikipedia entries)



In 1915 he took up a commission as Lieutenant in the 8th Brigade of the East Surrey Regiment. This was recorded in the Fishergate School Headmaster's Log Book entry for January 1916:



"Max Dove, an old scholar, has gained his commission in the army".

His regiment was to become famous for the football match played between the British and German lines on Christmas day 1914. The memorial (left) commemorates this event in the grounds of the National Arboretum.

The 8th (Service) Battalion had been formed at Kingston-upon-Thames in September 1914 and came under orders of 55th Brigade in 18th (Eastern) Division. They moved initially to Purfleet but by April 1915 were at Colchester and then moved to Salisbury Plain in May 1915. Soon afterwards they were deployed to France and landing at Boulogne 28 July 1915. They fought at the Battle of Loos in September 1915 and seem to have stayed in the Somme battlefield area. Edward may have been with them from this time.



There is a war diary for the 8th Battalion, East Surrey Regiment of which the entry for June 1916 is available online (www.surreys.org.uk/wardiaries/). They were in trenches at Fourdringoy, north-west of Amiens (*Town Hall photo left*). The diary describes mundane tasks, bombardments and deaths. For example:

JUNE 1916 FOURDRINOY

5th All Companies held Minute Kit Inspections particularly of small articles as oil bottles, pulls thro. [sic], Canteen covers, water bottle corks, Field dressings, Ampoules etc.
 6th Companies paraded on alarm posts in Fighting kit wearing steel helmets, carrying one practice smoke helmet and marched off 8.45a.m. as a Battalion to the Trench area.
 10th In the afternoon between 3.15 and 5.30 p.m. the enemy fired about 60 howitzer shells and a few heavy trench mortars bombs on to this sub-sector blowing in the trenches in one or two places but caused no casualties.
 11th From Noon until 1.45 p.m. the enemy shelled our support trenches. Only material damage occurred on the right part of the trench a large dug-out being blown in and caused the following casualties... [of whom] the last three being killed.

On 22nd March 1917 Edward was awarded the Military Cross (MC). At that date, this 3rd level military decoration was awarded to officers of the British Armed Forces in recognition of 'an act or acts of exemplary gallantry during active operations against the enemy'. This was a period of increased German resistance along the Western Front in the area from St Quentin to south of Arras.



The East Surrey Regiment were in the front line from 21st March 1918, the first day of the German Spring Offensive, which would go on until 18th July. Thousands of shells were fired each minute from the German lines during a monstrous bombardment. By the day's close, the British side had suffered 38,500 casualties, including 21,000 soldiers taken prisoner; and Edward's regiment lost 309 men



Edward was killed in action a few days later on the 23rd March 1918, aged 23.

He is commemorated on the Pozieres Memorial in the Somme department of France. This lists the names of 14,657 British and South African soldiers of the 5th and 4th Armies with no known grave killed between 21st March and 7th August 1918.

Edward's death was recorded in the Fishergate School log book and his name as 'Max' is on the school memorial plaque. He is also remembered on the Inns of Court memorial near Berkhamsted, Herefordshire (*photo from Wikipedia*)



At his death, his effects were valued at £493 and probate was in favour of his father, who then lived at 32 Mansfield Road, Ilford, Essex.

REMEMBERED WITH HONOUR

EDWARD (MAX) DOVE



AGED 23 YEARS