

**All Saints Cemetery,
Nunhead, Greater London, England
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



3499 PRIVATE

S. H. WHITE

13TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

17TH SEPTEMBER, 1916 Age 20

He Was Loved And Honored

By Us All

Sydney Horace WHITE

Sydney Horace White was born in Auburn, Sydney, NSW on 9th October, 1895 to parents Charles Henry & Jane White (nee Deely).

Sydney Horace White attended Auburn Superior Public School, NSW.

Sydney Horace White was aged 19 years & 11 months, single & a Postal Assistant from Rawson Street, Auburn, NSW when he enlisted at Warwick Farm, Sydney, NSW on 26th August, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 3499 & his religion was Congregational. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr Charles H. White, of Rawson Street, Auburn, NSW. Sydney White stated on his Attestation Papers that he had previously served with 39th Infantry at Auburn.

As Sydney Horace White was under the age of 21 years – his parents were required to sign their consent for their son to enlist in the Australian Imperial Force for active service abroad. C. White & J. White both signed their consent.

Private Sydney Horace White was posted to 11th Reinforcements of 13th Battalion (no date recorded).

Private Sydney Horace White embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Port Lincoln (A17)* on 13th October, 1915 with the 4th Infantry Brigade, 13th Infantry Battalion, 11th Reinforcements.

Private Sydney Horace White was admitted to No. 4 Auxiliary Hospital at Abbassia on 23rd January, 1916 with Diphtheria.

Mr Charles H. White, Rawson Street, Auburn, NSW, father of Private Sydney Horace White, was advised on 5th February, 1916 by Base Records that his son had been admitted to Fourth Auxiliary Hospital, Cairo on 24th January with Diphtheria.

Private Sydney Horace White was taken on strength of 13th Battalion at Tel-el-Kebir on 4th March, 1916 from Reinforcements.

Private Sydney Horace White proceeded to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force) from Alexandria on 1st June, 1916 on Troopship *Transylvania*. He disembarked at Marseilles, France on 8th June, 1916.

Private Sydney Horace White was wounded in action in France on 11th August, 1916. He was admitted to 4th Field Ambulance on 11th August, 1916 with shrapnel wounds to shoulder & neck. Private White was transferred to St John Ambulance Brigade at Etaples on 13th August, 1916 with G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to neck – severe. He embarked for England from Calais, France on 24th August, 1916 on Hospital Ship *Newhaven*.

13th Battalion

The 13th Battalion AIF was raised from late September 1914, six weeks after the outbreak of the First World War. The battalion was recruited in New South Wales, and with the 14th, 15th and 16th Battalions formed the 4th Brigade, commanded by Colonel John Monash.....

After the withdrawal from Gallipoli, the battalion returned to Egypt. While in Egypt the AIF was expanded and was reorganised. The 13th Battalion was split and provided experienced soldiers for the 45th Battalion. The 4th Brigade was combined with the 12th and 13th Brigades to form the 4th Australian Division.

In June 1916, the 13th sailed for France and the Western Front. From then until 1918, the battalion took part in bloody trench warfare. Its first major action in France was at Pozieres in August.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

War Diary – 13th Battalion

11th August, 1916 Pozieres

1 am – A & D Coys made a forward move under cover of Artillery Barrage & seized line R.34a5.3 – 43 – 44 -65. "C" Coy were handed over as Reserve to 16th Bn. Following is an account of operation:- A & D Coys in position in "Hopping-out" Trench (R.34a 53.74.95) at 11.30 pm, At midnight report received from D Coy (on left) that his trench had been heavily shelled between 6 pm & 11 pm. B Coy (Support Coy) in position at R.34.a 91 – C.58 & improving cover trench.

At midnight our six Lewis Guns were disposed as follows:- One at R.34 b. 12. One at R.34 a 5 ½ .2. Two between 53 & 74 & two between 74 & 95 in Hopping out trench (Reference Map FERME DU MOUQUET 1/5.000). Vickers guns at R. 34 a 91 & b 23.

At 1 am (zero time) bombardment commenced & first wave moved into NO-MAN'S-LAND. AT 1.30 am the Barrage lifted & A & D Coys advanced. Word received at 2 am that we were in our objective & consolidating.

Operations seriously impeded by a dense fog.

Enemy replied with heavy counter bombardment at 3.45 am. Soon after about 40 Germans made a bomb attack at Point 35 but were driven off leaving about 12 killed.

Noon – Enemy commenced slow bombardment of support lines & communications. Bombardment reached its maximum intensity at 9 pm & slow decreased until normal at 5 am on morning of 12th.

10.54 pm – D Coy (left) reports our artillery barraging 34 b5 & 86 in R.34a & as a result unable to proceed with patrols etc.

11 pm – Left Coy pushed forward to R.34a35 – 56 where they were attacked by a bombing party at about 1 am on 12th. We took 15 prisoners.

Trench R.34 b.23 – 34.a 9.5 was deepened & connected with Support trench at R.34a7.4. Another trench put underway between a.84 & 76.

Casualties 11th – Capt F. M. BARTON & 4 o'ranks missing, 10 o'ranks killed & 91 o'ranks wounded.

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Mr Charles H. White, Rawson Street, Auburn, NSW, father of Private Sydney Horace White, was advised on 28th August, 1916 by Base Records that his son was dangerously ill with gunshot wound to neck. Base Records advised Mr Charles White on 25th September, 1916 that his son's condition was stationary.

Private Sydney Horace White was admitted to 4th London General Hospital, Denmark Hill, London, England on 26th August, 1916 with Shrapnel wounds to Spine.

Private Sydney Horace White died on 17th September, 1916 at 4th London General Hospital, London, England from wounds received in action in France – G.S.W to Spine & Paraplegia. *(Note: some forms in the Service Record file for the late Private Sydney Horace White have the incorrect date listed as 18th or 22nd September, 1916. This was checked & the correct date was recorded as 17th September, 1916).*

A death for Sidney White, aged 19, was registered in the September quarter, 1916 in the district of Lambeth, Greater London, England.

Private Sydney Horace White was buried in All Saints Cemetery, Nunhead, Great London, England – Plot number Square 89. Grave No. 32449.

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Private Sydney Horace White contains 2 brief memos:

- *“Admitted to 4th London Gen. Hosp. Denmark Hill 24-8-16 with gun shot wound in neck, shrapnel wound in spine, seriously ill. Cert. by A.I.F. headquarters 14-9-16.
Dying – No hope of getting better. Cert. by phone message from Hospital 15-9-16”*
- *“Died 17-9-16 in the evening – unconscious for some hours. His Aunt has been notified. Buried 21-9-16 at Nunhead Cemetery. Cert. by phone message 19-9-16.”*

A War Pension was granted to Jane White, “Birmingville” Rawson St, Auburn, mother of the late Private Sydney Horace White in the sum of 15/- per fortnight from 9th July, 1917.

Death Certificates for the late Private Sydney Horace White were requested from Base Records from The Public Trust Office, Sydney, NSW, The United Ancient Order of Druids (Liberty Plains Lodge), The United Ancient Order of Druids (Grand Lodge Office, George Street, Haymarket, Sydney). Confirmation of death was also requested by Postmaster General’s Department, Sydney, NSW.

Mr C. H. White, Rawson Street, Auburn, Sydney, NSW, was advised by Base Records on 20th April, 1920 *“regarding the regrettable loss of your son, the late No. 3499 Private S. H. White, 13th Battalion, I am now in receipt of further advice which shows that his remains have been exhumed from former site, and re-interred in Grave 22, Australian Section, Nunhead Cemetery, Nunhead. This work is carried out with every measure of care and reverence in the presence of a Chaplain. The utmost care and attention is being devoted to the graves of our fallen soldiers, and photo graphs are being taken as soon as possible for transmission to next-of-kin.”*

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission now has the grave reference as 16.33431 H. and Private Sydney Horace White now has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

A letter was sent from Provost Marshall’s Office, Victoria Barracks, Sydney, on 3rd November, 1920 to 2nd Military District & reads:

“SUBJECT. Re. Next of Kin of the Late Private S. H. White,

I beg to report that I made inquiries at Rawson Street & No. 3 Union Road, Auburn, re. the next of kin of the late soldier referred to. Mrs Ellen Mills, widow of the late, No. 2618 Sergeant William Henry Mills, states that she is a sister of the Late Private S. H. White & that Charles Henry White, 22, who is the youngest in the family, is the person who forwarded the attached form to District Headquarters, asking that the 1914/15 Star be forwarded to him at No. 3 Union Road, Auburn. He bears the same Christian names as the late father (nominated as next of kin) of the late soldier, who died in September, 1917. The deceased soldier’s Mother, Mrs Jane White, died in August, 1920. The next of kin of the late soldier is now, Alfred Henry White, aged 40, eldest surviving brother, whose address in North Melbourne Street, Invercargill, New Zealand. The White family will be leaving No. 3 Union Road, Auburn, shortly & their address will be c/o Mrs G. Hunter, Pine Road, Auburn.”

Private Sydney Horace White was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private White’s eldest brother – Mr A. H. White, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent November, 1921 & Plaque sent March, 1922).

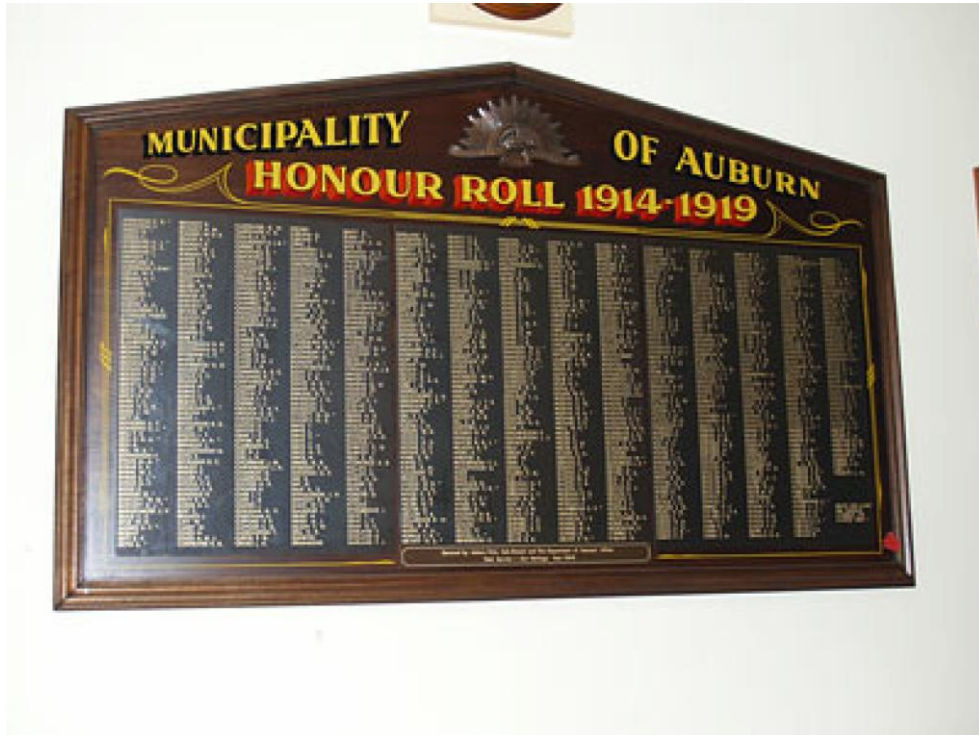
The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Sydney Horace White – service number 3499, aged 20, of 13th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Charles Henry and Jane White, of 3 Union Rd., Auburn, New South Wales.

S. H. White is remembered on the NSW Officers of the Post Master General's Department Honour Roll, located in the former Sydney G.P.O., now Westin Hotel, corner Martin Place & George Street, Sydney, NSW.



NSW Officers of the Post Master General's Department Honour Roll, Sydney (Photo by Cathy Sedgwick)

S. H. White is remembered on the Municipality of Auburn Honour Roll 1914 – 1919, located in Auburn RSL Sub-Branch, 33 Northumberland Road, Auburn, NSW.



Municipality of Auburn Honour Roll 1914 – 1919 (Photos from War Memorial Register NSW)



S. H. White is remembered on the Auburn District War Memorial, located in Auburn Memorial Park, corner Rawson & Station Roads, Auburn, NSW.



Auburn District War Memorial (Photo from War Memorial Register NSW)

Private S. H. White is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 71.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(60 pages of Private Sydney Horace White's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll, Red Cross Wounded & Missing) & National Archives



Connected to Private Sydney Horace White:

Older brother –Ernest George White – Enlisted 22nd August, 1915 as a 25 year old Plumber's assistant from Rawson Street, Auburn, NSW. No. 3497. EMBARKED FROM Sydney, NSW on 13th October, 1915 with 11th Reinforcements of 13th Battalion. Reported as Missing 30th August, 1916. Wounded & taken Prisoner of War. Returned to Australia 31st March, 1919.



Private Sydney Horace White



Newspaper Notices

AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES

LIST NO. 142

NEW SOUTH WALES

ILL

Thirteenth Battalion – Private S. H. White (Auburn)

(Newcastle Morning Herald and Miner's Advocate, NSW – 15 February, 1916)

FOR THEIR COUNTRY

N.S.W. WAR CASUALTIES

Private Sydney H. White has been dangerously wounded by gunshot in the neck. Formerly he was a telegraph operator at Auburn Post Office, and attains his majority next month. A brother, Private Ernest George White, is a member of the same unit.

(Evening News, Sydney, NSW – 4 September, 1916)

To-Day's Casualty List

The 188th casualty list, issued this morning.....

NEW SOUTH WALES

RETURNED TO DUTY

Pte S. H. WHITE, Auburn (previously reported ill)

(The Sun, Sydney, NSW – 14 September, 1916)

TO-DAY'S CASUALTY LIST

The 211 casualty list, issued to-day.....

NEW SOUTH WALES

ILL

Pte S. H. WHITE, Auburn (second occasion, dangerously, previously reported returned to duty)

(The Sun, Sydney, NSW – 14 September, 1916)

CASUALTIES

FURTHER LIST

The 228th casualty list was made available yesterday afternoon....

NEW SOUTH WALES

PROGRESS REPORT

Pte S. H. WHITE, Auburn (condition stationary)

(The Daily Telegraph, Sydney, NSW – 5 October, 1916)

ROLL OF HONOUR

WHITE – Died at 4th London General Hospital, on September 18, 1916, of wounds received in France, Private Sydney Horace White, 13th Battalion, beloved son of Mr and Mrs Charles H. White, of Rawson-street, Auburn, aged 20 years.

One of Australia's soldiers,
For his King he played his part;
A mother's gift to the Empire,
He yet lives in his mother's heart.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 5 October, 1916)

ROLL OF HONOUR

WHITE – Died at 4th London General Hospital, on September 18, 1916, of wounds received in France, Private Sydney Horace White, 13th Battalion, beloved son of Mr and Mrs Charles H. White, of Rawson-street, Auburn, aged 20 years.

One of Australia's soldiers,
For his King he played his part;
A mother's gift to the Empire,
He yet lives in his mother's heart.

WHITE – Died in England, September 18, 1916, of wounds received in France, Private Sydney Horace White, aged 20 years.

Somewhere in England they have laid him,
Our dear brother so young and so brave;
Far away from the land of the wattle,
No loved ones to weep o'er his grave.

Inserted by his loving sisters, Nellie and Lillie, and brother-in-law, George.

(The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Parramatta, NSW – 7 October, 1916)

TWO AUBURN BROTHERS

ONE KILLED, THE OTHER MISSING



Syd. H. White.

Ern. Geo. White.

A few weeks ago Mr. Charles H. White, of Rawson-street, Auburn, was officially notified that his son, Private Sydney H. White (standing in the photograph) had been dangerously wounded in the neck in France. Shortly afterwards word was received that he was dangerously ill in hospital, and now the sad intelligence has been received that he died in the 4th General Hospital, Denmark Hill, London, on 18th September. Had he lived till 9th inst. he would have been 21 years of age. To add to the family's sore trouble the parents were advised, two or three days afterwards, that their other son, Private Ernest George White, had been reported missing since 30th August. He was 25 years of age. Both soldiers were well known and very popular in Auburn. Ernest was a fine Soccer footballer and often did good service for his club. Syd. was a bright and clever lad, and his aged parents point with pride to a framed certificate which he obtained from the Congregational Sunday school Union. There is also a picture of him in the old home as a boy scout. After leaving the local public school he was given a year's tuition at Stott and Hoare's College, Sydney, after which he joined the Government Postal Department, and worked as telegraph operator at the Auburn Post Office from the time he left the college till he enlisted. Both lads were in D Company of the 13th Battalion and they went to the front together. Much sympathy is felt with the parents of these two young heroes, who are well known and greatly respected residents of Auburn.

(The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Parramatta, NSW – 7 October, 1916)

AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES

LIST NO. 236

NEW SOUTH WALES

DIED OF WOUNDS

Pte S. H. White (Auburn)

(The Maitland Weekly Mercury, NSW – 21 October, 1916)

IN MEMORIAM

WHITE – In sad and loving memory of our dear son, Private Sydney Horace White, who died of wounds received in France, September 17, 1916.

The day was won, the roll was called,
He could not answer here;
He shouldered his gun in honour's cause,
And died without a fear.
In a hero's grave he is lying,
Somewhere in France he fell;
Little we thought when we parted
It would be our last farewell.

Inserted by his loving mother and father, and brother, Jack and Charlie.

WHITE – In sad and loving memory of our dear brother, Private Sydney Horace White, who died of wounds received in France, September 17, 1916.

They miss you most who loved you best.

Inserted by his loving sister and brother-in-law, Lily and George Hunter; also niece, Jean.

WHITE - In sad and loving memory of our dear brother, Private Sydney Horace White, who died of wounds received in France, September 17, 1916.

Oh, for the clasp of a vanished hand,
And the sound of a voice that is stilled.

Inserted by his loving sister, Nellie, and brother-in-law, Will (on active service); also little nephew, Willie.

WHITE – In loving memory of our brother, Private Sydney H. White, who died of wounds received in France, September 17, 1916. Inserted by his loving brother and sister-in-law, Tom and Florrie, Auburn.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 17 September, 1917)

On Active Service

WHITE – In loving memory of my dear son and our dear brother, Private Sydney Horace White, died of wounds received in France, September 17, 1916.

Only a bundle of letters,
That's all that is left for me,
But the boy who died for his country

Still lives in my memory.
Only come lines from the trenches,
With the hand of the writer grown cold,
But the words of the writer were written
In letters of purest gold.

Inserted by his loving mother and brothers, Jack, Charles, and Ernest (prisoner of war.)

WHITE – In loving memory of our dear brother, Private Sydney Horace White, died of wounds received in France, September 17, 1916.

There is one link death cannot sever,
Loving remembrance, which lasts for ever.

Sadly missed by his loving sisters, Nellie and Lily, and brother-in-law, George.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 17 September, 1918)

On Active Service

WHITE – In loving memory of my dear son and brother, Private S. White, 13th Batt., died of wounds received in France, September 17, 1916.

Could I, his mother, have clasped his hand,
The son I loved so well.
And kissed his brow when death was near,
And whispered, My son, farewell.
I seem to see his dear, sweet face
In a mist of anxious tears.
But a mother's part is a broken heart
And a burden of lonely years.

Inserted by his loving mother and brothers, Jack, Charley and Ernest (returned).

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 17 September, 1919)

Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstones

The Defence Department, in 1920/21, contacted the next of kin of the deceased World War 1 soldiers to see if they wanted to include a personal inscription on the permanent headstone. Space was reserved for 66 letters only (with the space between any two words to be counted as an additional letter) & the rate per letter was around 3 ½ d (subject to fluctuation).

The expense in connection for the erection of permanent headstones over the graves of fallen soldiers was borne by the Australian Government.

(Information obtained from letters sent to next of kin in 1921)

Private S. H. White does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

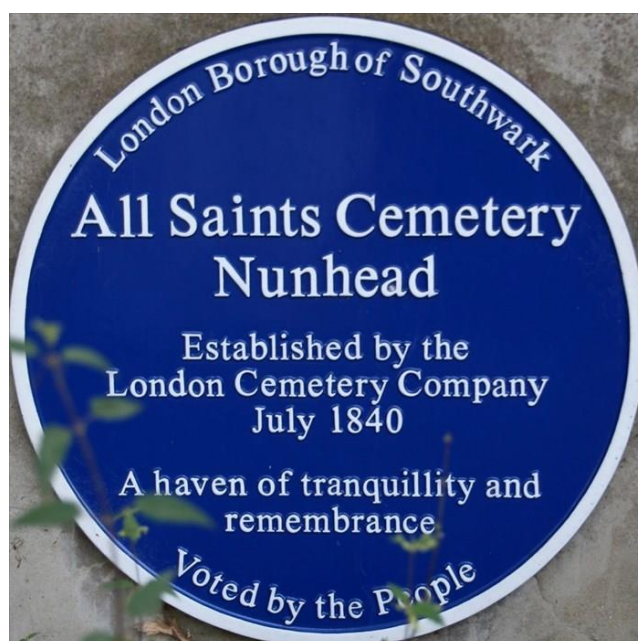
He Was Loved And Honored By Us All

All Saints Cemetery, Nunhead, Great London, England (also known as Nunhead Cemetery)

Nunhead (All Saints) Cemetery contains 592 Commonwealth burials of the 1914-1918 war. The majority are in three war graves plots; the United Kingdom plot (in Square 89) has 266 graves, the Australian plot (near the main entrance) has 23 and the Canadian plot (in Square 52, also containing New Zealand and South African burials) has 36. The graves in the Australian and Canadian plots are marked with individual headstones. The graves in the United Kingdom plot and the remaining war graves scattered throughout the cemetery could not be marked individually; the casualties buried in these graves are therefore commemorated by name on a Screen Wall inside the main entrance gate to the cemetery.

A second Screen Wall commemorates the 110 burials of the 1939-1945 war in a further war graves plot in Square 5 and elsewhere in the cemetery whose graves could not be marked by headstones.

There is also 1 Belgian burial of the 1914-1918 war and 7 Non-war Service burials, all commemorated on the Screen Wall. *(Information from CWGC)*



All Saints Cemetery, Nunhead





AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

J00776

The Australian area at Nunhead Cemetery. The grave in the centre front is 27 Lance Corporal Eric Lyndon Lowe, 18th Battalion, from Clarence Town NSW, who died on 10 September 1915 aged 18 years. The grave to the right is 1560 Private (Pte) Leslie Raymond Talbot Gilbert, 14th Battalion, born in England, from Kogarah West NSW, who died on 20 January 1916 aged 19 years. The grave 2nd row right side is 1019 Sergeant (Sgt) Victor Ronald Coombe, 15th Battalion, of Campbelltown, Tas, who died on 29 September 1915 aged 26 years. From the collection of Mr Alfred Thomas Sharp. Mr Sharp was the Commonwealth Immigration Officer of Victoria and was based in the London Office during the First World War. He and his wife hosted and visited many soldiers, particularly those from Victoria, who were recuperating in London. He also photographed many Australian graves in English cemeteries. His photograph collection relating to this period in London was bequeathed to the Memorial in 1922 after his death. During his time in London he was a member of the British Volunteer Regiment, serving with the Willesden Battalion, Middlesex Volunteer Regiment.



Australian War Graves in All Saints Cemetery, Nunhead (Photos courtesy of Neil Bright)



Photo of Private S. H. White's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in All Saints Cemetery, Nunhead, Great London, England.



(Photo courtesy of Roberto Lagnado)