

Sydney was born in Sydney on 14th September 1895, the son of Thomas and Sarah Godwin. On 11th August he joined E Company, AN&MEF stating that he was an electrician and single, giving his father at "Crows Nest", Lane Cove Rd, North Sydney, as his next of kin. He was promoted sergeant on 18th August, just before sailing. He was just 19 years old.

He returned from Rabaul and was discharged, term expired, on 18th Jan 1915 having completed 161 days service.

On 16th Feb 1917 he attempted to enlist in the AIF but was rejected as unfit due to malaria. Later that same year he married Ethel Maude Cosgrove at Goulburn.

On the electoral roll in 1936 he was shown as a "Military Instructor" and then in 1937 is shown to have married Clara Ann Florence Oliver, presumably following a divorce from Ethel.

It is fairly clear that he had an extensive career in the military although the records are sketchy. In the Gazette in 1939 he was listed as a WO1, service number 313, with the Australian Instructional Corps, and was made temp Quartermaster with the rank of Hon. Lieutenant.

He is shown on the DVA Nominal Roll for WW2 but his rank, enlistment date, discharge date and Unit, are listed as unknown.

There is a reference in the National Archives to him being a Major, service number NP10053, injured aboard the MV DUNTROON. The DUNTROON was in Naval Service from 1942 till 1949 and it is assumed he was aboard during one of its two collisions, one with an Australian Warship and the second with an American Warship. The ship was used as a troop carrier and later used to repatriate POWs from Japan.



MV Duntroon off Lae, PNG 1945.

Sydney died at Lismore on 15th Sept 1953 and at his death his occupation was listed as being an Officer of the Permanent Military Forces of the Commonwealth of Australia.