

Sydney was born in Exeter, Derbyshire, England in September 1877. In 1895, when he was 22, he migrated to Canada, where he was a police sergeant. In 1909, he is shown as living in Alberta with his wife, Jessie and three children.

On 11th August he enlisted in the AN&MEF, stating that he was a policeman and naming his wife, in Canada, as his next of kin. On 27th August he was appointed Lance Corporal and on 11th Feb 1915 he was re-attested on transfer to the 3rd Battalion AN&MEF. He was promoted sergeant on 27th August 1915 whilst posted as police master, Herbertshohe.

He was discharged in Rabaul on 4th Jan 1916 and then re-enlisted on 1st December 1916, regimental number 583. At this time his wife had joined him in Kokopo. On 18th April 1918 he was appointed police master at Namatanai, New Ireland. At some time in 1919/20, his wife, Jessie, returned to Canada for a family visit. Whilst she was away, Sydney resigned on 31st July 1920 and died shortly after on 12th December 1920 whilst his wife was returning from Canada on the SONOMA, via Melbourne. She was advised of his death on her arrival in Melbourne.