

Sydney was born in Glanville, NSW on 25th Feb 1885, the son of William Alfred Barker and Eliza Dora Barker, nee Harper.

He enlisted into A Company, AN&MEF on 11th August 1914 stating that he was an accountant by trade and single. He gave his father, at "Chestnut", The Avenue, Glanville, as his next of kin. Whilst in Rabaul he served as Postmaster at Herbertshohe, returning to Australia and being discharged on 4th March 1915, term expired, having served 206 days.

On 13th September 1915 he enlisted into the 34th Battalion. His regimental number was 226. On 21st March 1916 he was appointed Company Sergeant Major (CSM), C Company, and embarked with the battalion aboard the HORORATA, leaving Sydney on 2nd May 1916 and arriving in Plymouth on 23rd June.

On 12th August 1916 he was granted a commission as a 2/LT and promoted Lieutenant on 2nd March 1917. On 15th June 1917 was transferred to the 3rd Division, Trench Mortar Battery. He was awarded the Military Cross, the recommendation stating: -

"During wire cutting operations at PLOEGSTEERT on 2nd, 3rd and 4th June 1917, the 3rd Divisional Trench Mortars were frequently subjected to very heavy hostile fire of all calibres. This Officer was in charge of a Medium Trench Mortar Battery, and by his tenacity, courage and example, he kept his guns in action under all circumstances. I consider that it was largely due to the devotion to duty of Lieut. Barker that all wire on this sector was cut under very adverse conditions."

On 20th Feb 1918, Sydney was transferred to the Australian Flying Corps, appointed a Flying Officer and qualified to wear wings on 13th October 1918.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

B01238

AFC. LT S W Barker MC, back row centre (wearing pith helmet), November 1918

On 25th October 1918, whilst on a mission in a Bristol Fighter, Sydney ran into a severe storm near Kefr Huni, Syria and crashed into the mountains. Sydney was injured whilst his passenger escaped without injury. On 5th March 1919 he boarded the PORT SYDNEY arriving back in Australia on 11th April 1919. On 10th June his appointment to the AIF was terminated.

On 25th September 1920 he married Ilma Martina Catheart at St Paul's Chatswood. During WW2 he served as a Major with the 2nd Armour Regiment and died in Sydney in 1971.