

Sydney was born in Melbourne on 17th Sept 1883, the son of John James George and Mary Ann Coker. In 1900 he joined the Johannesburg Mounted Rifles, #2726, and served for 6 months during which period he was shot in the leg. On 25th April 1913 he married Mary Elizabeth (Pearl) Fitch.

On 11th August 1914 he joined D Company, AN&MEF stating that he was a painter and gave his wife at 65 Shepherd St, Sydney, as his next of kin. He returned from Rabaul and was discharged, term expired, on 4th March 1915 having completed 206 days service.

On 26th August 1915 he joined the AIF as part of the 14th Reinforcements, 1st Battalion, regimental number 4446 and sailed from Sydney on the OSTERLEY on 15th Jan 1916. He was taken on strength by the battalion at Tel-el-Kebir on 20th Feb. He became ill with eyestritis, tonsilitis, cystitis and diabetes and left Port Suez aboard the PORT SYDNEY on 24th June 1916, arriving home on 22nd July and being discharged, medically unfit on 24th October 1916.

On 12th April 1940 he joined the Railway Unit as a sapper, service number NX12094, stating that his date of birth was 1893, thus claiming he was 10 years younger than he actually was. He went with the unit to Belmont, West Australia, returning to Sydney on 28th September and being discharged in Sydney as medically unfit on 2nd October 1940.

Sydney died at Hurstville on 22nd May 1953.