

Sidney was born in Lewisham, Kent, in December 1880, the son of Thomas Edward Golding and his wife Mary Ann, nee Moss. In 1905 he married Elizabeth Anne Bright.

On 11th August 1914 he enlisted in the AN&MEF, stating that he was a blind maker and gave his wife at 55 Northumberland Ave, Stanmore, as his next of kin. He also stated that he had served 3 years in the Kent Artillery and 2 and a half years in the Cape Mounted Rifles, presumably during the Boer War. He returned from Rabaul aboard the MATUNGA, as an escort for prisoners and was discharged, term expired, on 4th March 1915.

On 8th March 1915 he enlisted in the AIF but was discharged on 20th March as medically unfit.

He enlisted for a 2nd time on 6th August 1916. He went AWOL on a number of occasions and had a warrant issued for his arrest as a deserter in December 1915. A note on his file from a Capt Langan suggested his strange behaviour could be attributed to Malaria.

He enlisted for a third time on 20th December 1915, this time as a sapper, part of the reinforcements, Field Company of Engineers, regimental number 15313. He was made an acting sergeant for the voyage which began in Sydney on 7th October aboard the CERAMIC and ended in Plymouth on 21st November. On 20th March 1917 he moved to France and was wounded with a gunshot wound to the knee on 27th September. He rejoined his unit on 13th November and was evacuated to the UK sick board the JAN BREYDAL on 2nd April 1918, not rejoining his unit in France until 28th August.

Sidney left the UK aboard the CHINA on 1st May 1919, arriving home on 11th June.

He was discharged from the AIF on 19th July 1919.