



Lieut. Sydney Sylvanus Mills

Military Cross



20th September 1917



Played with Adelaide University



Cricket Club: 1911/12-1913 (B Grade)

Arts Student

Teacher (Principal Port Augusta West State School)

Background

Coinciding with the Centenary of Anzacs our incentive behind the series of biographical publications is the Adelaide University Football and Cricket Club's desire to honour our players who served in the Great War (1914 - 1918). These brave men put on hold their academic, professional and sporting careers for King and Country in the name of peace and freedom. The AUFC/AUCC WW1 Memorial Committee is endeavouring to identify every one of our players who served and prepare life stories on all. This is to ensure their sacrifices and further contributions to society will be recognised by future generations.

On Anzac Day 2015, the Centenary of the Gallipoli landing, a memorial plaque was unveiled on the Adelaide University Oval Pavilion and this was followed by the erection of a picket fence between the pavilion and the scoreboard with each picket bearing a plaque with the name of an AUFC/AUCC player who served.

The following documentation relates to the life of Sydney Sylvanus Mills. It is compilation of information and photographs collected from a variety of historical sources.

AUFC/AUCC WW1 MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

The AIF Project

<https://www.aif.adfa.edu.au/showPerson?pid=209587>



Sydney Sylvanus MILLS

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Place of birth | Carrieton South Australia |
| School | Peterborough Public School, South Australia |
| Other training | University of Adelaide, South Australia |
| Religion | Church of England |
| Occupation | Teacher |
| Address | Port Augusta West, South Australia |
| Marital status | Married |
| Age at embarkation | 26 |
| Next of kin | Wife, Mrs P H Mills, Quorn, South Australia |
| Previous military service | Nil |
| Enlistment date | 15 September 1915 |
| Rank on enlistment | 2nd Lieutenant |
| Unit name | 10th Battalion, 15th Reinforcement |
| AWM Embarkation Roll number | 23/27/4 |
| Embarkation details | Unit embarked from Adelaide, South Australia, on board RMS <i>Mongolia</i> on 9 March 1916 |
| Rank from Nominal Roll | Lieutenant |
| Unit from Nominal Roll | 10th Battalion |
| Recommendations (Medals and Awards) | Military Cross |
| | 'Great bravery, devotion to duty and powers of leadership and initiative. Personally rendered many gallant acts.' (Bullecourt 7 May 1917). Recommendation date: 14 May 1917 |
| Fate | Killed in Action 20 September 1917 |
| Place of death or wounding | Polygon Wood, Belgium |
| Age at death | 28 |
| Age at death from cemetery records | 28 |
| Place of burial | No known grave |
| Commemoration details | The Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial (Panel 17), Belgium The Menin Gate Memorial (so named because the road led to the town of |

Menin) was constructed on the site of a gateway in the eastern walls of the old Flemish town of Ypres, Belgium, where hundreds of thousands of allied troops passed on their way to the front, the Ypres salient, the site from April 1915 to the end of the war of some of the fiercest fighting of the war. The Memorial was conceived as a monument to the 350,000 men of the British Empire who fought in the campaign. Inside the arch, on tablets of Portland stone, are inscribed the names of 56,000 men, including 6,178 Australians, who served in the Ypres campaign and who have no known grave.

The opening of the Menin Gate Memorial on 24 July 1927 so moved the Australian artist Will Longstaff that he painted 'The Menin Gate at Midnight', which portrays a ghostly army of the dead marching past the Menin Gate. The painting now hangs in the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, at the entrance of which are two medieval stone lions presented to the Memorial by the City of Ypres in 1936.

Since the 1930s, with the brief interval of the German occupation in the Second World War, the City of Ypres has conducted a ceremony at the Memorial at dusk each evening to commemorate those who died in the Ypres campaign.

Panel number, Roll of Honour,
Australian War Memorial

60

Miscellaneous information from
cemetery records

Parents: Howard and Susan MILLS; husband of Phoebe MILLS, Quorn, South Australia. Native of Carrieton, South Australia

Medals

Military Cross

'For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. Under heavy bombardment by the enemy he carried out the work of consolidation. His section of the trench was repeatedly blown in, but with great tenacity and courage, he hung on and prevented the enemy from regaining his position.'

Source: 'Commonwealth Gazette' No. 219

Date: 20 December 1917

Other details

War service: Western Front

Medals: Military Cross, British War Medal, Victory Medal

Service Record

<https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=7981272>

| OFFICER | | 2196 | | ALIAN | | MILITARY FORCES. | |
|---|--|---|--|-------|--|------------------|--|
| AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE. | | | | | | | |
| ATTESTATION PAPER OF PERSONS ENLISTED FOR SERVICE ABROAD | | | | | | | |
| No. <i>2nd Lieut</i> | | Name <i>MILLS, SYDNEY SYLVANUS</i> | | | | | |
| | | Unit <i>15th to 10th Infy</i> | | | | | |
| | | Joined on <i>Sept. 15th 1916</i> | | | | | |
| Questions to be put to the Person Enlisting before Attestation | | | | | | | |
| 1. What is your Name? | | 1. <i>Sydney Sylvanus Mills</i> | | | | | |
| 2. In or near what Parish or Town were you born? | | 2. In the Parish of <i>Carrieton</i> in or near the Town of <i>Carrieton</i> in the State of <i>South Australia</i> | | | | | |
| 3. Are you a natural born British Subject or a Naturalized British Subject? (N.B. In the latter, papers to be shown.) | | 3. <i>Natural Born</i> | | | | | |
| 4. What is your age? | | 4. <i>26 years 1 month</i> | | | | | |
| 5. What is your trade or calling? | | 5. <i>Teacher</i> | | | | | |
| 6. Are you, or have you been, an Apprentice? If so, where, to whom, and for what period? | | 6. <i>No</i> | | | | | |
| 7. Are you married? | | 7. <i>Yes</i> | | | | | |
| 8. Who is your next of kin? (Address to be stated) | | 8. <i>(Wife) Wm Phoebe Harnett Mills</i> <i>Quorn, South Aust.</i> | | | | | |
| 9. Have you ever been convicted by the Civil Power? | | 9. <i>No</i> | | | | | |
| 10. Have you ever been discharged from any part of His Majesty's Forces, with Ignominy, or as Incorrigible and Worthless, or on account of Conviction of Felony, or of a Sentence of Penal Servitude, or have you been dismissed with disgrace from the Navy? | | 10. <i>No</i> | | | | | |
| 11. Do you now belong to, or have you ever served in, His Majesty's Army, the Marines, the Militia, the Militia Reserve, the Territorial Force, Royal Navy or Colonial Forces? If so, state which, and if not now serving, state cause of discharge | | 11. <i>Lieut. on Unattached List S.A.</i> | | | | | |
| 12. Have you stated the whole, if any, of your previous service? | | 12. <i>Yes</i> | | | | | |
| 13. Have you ever been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's Service? If so, on what grounds? | | 13. <i>No</i> | | | | | |
| 14. (For married men, widowers with children, and soldiers who are the sole support of widowed mother)— Do you understand that no Separation Allowance will be issued to you in respect of your service beyond an amount which together with pay would reach 8/- per day? | | 14. <i>Yes</i> | | | | | |
| 15. Are you prepared to undergo inoculation against smallpox and enteric fever? | | 15. <i>Yes</i> | | | | | |
| <i>Sydney S. Mills</i> do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and I am willing and hereby voluntarily agree to serve in the Military Forces of the Commonwealth of Australia within or beyond the limits of the Commonwealth. | | | | | | | |
| And I further agree to allot not less than <i>two-fifths</i> of the pay payable to me from time to time during my service for the support of my <i>wife</i> *† <i>wife and children</i> | | | | | | | |
| Date <i>Feb. 14th 1916</i> | | <i>Sydney S. Mills</i> Signature of Person Enlisted. | | | | | |
| <small>* This clause should be struck out in the case of unmarried men or widowers without children under 18 years of age. † Two-fifths must be allotted to the wife, and if there are children three-fifths must be allotted.</small> | | | | | | | |

Virtual War Memorial Australia

<https://vwma.org.au/explore/people/98022>



MILLS, Sydney Sylvanus

| Personal Details | Service History | Personal Stories |
|--|-----------------|------------------|
| Service Number: Officer | | |
| Enlisted: 15 September 1915, Adelaide, South Australia | | |
| Last Rank: Lieutenant | | |
| Last Unit: 10th Infantry Battalion | | |
| Born: Carrieton, South Australia, 19 August 1889 | | |
| Home Town: Quorn, Flinders Ranges, South Australia | | |
| Schooling: University of Adelaide | | |
| Occupation: School Teacher | | |
| Died: Killed in Action, Belgium, 20 September 1917, aged 28 years | | |
| Cemetery: Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial No known grave | | |
| Memorials: Australian War Memorial, Roll of Honour, Menin Gate Memorial (Commonwealth Memorial to the Missing of the Ypres Salient)*, National War Memorial (South Australia) | | |

Grave Secrets

<http://ww1sa.gravesecrets.net/mi.html>

MILLS, Sydney Sylvanus



Lieutenant
10th Battalion

REMEMBERING THE FALLEN

Born: 19 August 1889 at Carrieton, South Australia
Son of Howard & Susannah Margaret MILLS nee JORDAN
Husband of Phoebe Harriet MILLS nee TAYLOR
Of Quorn, South Australia
Occupation prior to enlisting: Teacher
Enlisted: 15 September 1916
Embarkation:
Age: 26 years
Served in France & Belgium

Awarded Military Cross
'Near Bullecourt, France on the night of the 7th May 1917 Lieut Mills displayed great bravery, power of leadership, and devotion to duty. When two of the Officers of the Company were wounded, one in getting to the Front Line and the other in the Line, Lieut Mills who was then the only Officer other than the Company Commander left with the Company, by the use of great initiative and energy carried out the consolidation of his position by digging Strong and Bombing Posts, and by the establishment of Listening Posts, under intense bombardment by the enemy's artillery from his flanks and front. His sector of the trench was repeatedly blown in but with exceptional tenacity and bravery he hung on and by his splendid example and prompt action prevented the enemy from regaining this important position.
On the 8th May when the enemy's artillery fire threatened the destruction of one of his Listening Posts, he, at the risk of his life, dashed across the open under machine gun fire and heavy sniping, and brought in the men of the Foot with only one casualty. He personally carried a wounded and helpless man back to a place of safety. On the barrage lifting he re-established and manned the Post.'
Killed in Action: 20 September 1917
Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium

Chronicle Newspaper

Published Biography

[https://familypedia.wikia.org/wiki/Sydney_Sylvanus_Mills_\(1889-1918\)](https://familypedia.wikia.org/wiki/Sydney_Sylvanus_Mills_(1889-1918))

Sydney Sylvanus Mills (1889-1918)

Sydney Mills was born in Carrieton, South Australia in 1889. His father Howard Mills was a railway employee who moved to various locations around South Australia due to the nature of his work. Sydney was the eldest of 6 children.

Sydney attended the Peterborough Public School (known as Petersburg at the time) and the University of South Australia, where he trained as a teacher. He married Phoebe Taylor in Quorn in 1914 and the couple settled in the area.

World War I

Sydney was listed as a Lieutenant on the unattached list of his attestation papers on enlisting in the Australian Imperial Force on September 13, 1915. He obtained this rank having served as a cadet for 2 years from 1906 – 1907 & 3 years in Commission in the cadets from 1908-1911. He enlisted at Port Augusta West in South Australia and was initially given the rank of 2nd Lieutenant. His vital statistics at the time were 5 feet 6 inches in height, weight 142 pounds and chest measurement 33 and a half inches.

Sydney was allocated to the 10th Battalion AIF, 15th Reinforcement, officer number 2196. The unit embarked from Adelaide, South Australia on board the RMS 'Mongolia' on 9th March 1916. He embarked overseas aboard the HT 'Ivernia' arriving in Alexandria on 20/5/1916 and then Marseilles on May 26, 1916.

Military Cross

Sydney spent a month and a half at base camp at Etaples before marching out to join the 1st Anzac Entrenching Battalion. He was only with the battalion for about 2 weeks before marching out to join his unit. On the 2/12/1916, he was given the rank of Lieutenant.

In 1917, Sydney was pivotal in keeping a trench out of the hands of the German army at Bullecourt. Under heavy bombardment by the enemy he carried out the work of consolidation. His section of the trench was repeatedly blown in, but with great tenacity and courage he hung on and prevented the enemy from regaining his position.

For his efforts in this particular trench, Sydney was awarded the Military Cross on July 2, 1917 for 'conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty'. His award was listed in the London Gazette on 14/8/1917, the Commonwealth of Australia Gazette on 20/12/1917, and his wife informed by letter from the Base Records Office on 15/1/1918. A link to the London Gazette entry is provided below:-

[Gazette Navigator](#)

8390 SUPPLEMENT TO THE LONDON GAZETTE, 16 AUGUST, 1917.

Lt. Sydney Sylvanus Mills, Inf.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. Under heavy bombardment by the enemy he carried out the work of consolidation. His section of the trench was repeatedly blown in, but, with great tenacity and courage, he hung on and prevented the enemy from regaining his position.

Missing in Action

For a brief time after this, Sydney was sent to Intelligence and Scouting School, rejoining his unit on August 25, 1917. He was reported missing in action in Belgium, September 20, 1917. The most reliable report concerning his disappearance came from a Sergeant J.B. Beckier of the 10th Battalion at the No. 7 Station Hospital in Boulogne, when he stated, "About daybreak on the morning of Sept. 20th, 1917, as we were getting ready for an attack on Polygon Wood, an enemy barrage was put on us and delayed our hop over. Lt. Mills was in the rear getting the stragglers together. I spoke to him at the time and then we got through the barrage and took up the position assigned to us. After that we lost sight of Mr Mills. We were not near enough to the enemy for him to have been taken prisoner and it was generally believed that he was knocked out."

Killed in Action

Further reports were gathered from other men regarding the incident to confirm if Sydney had been killed in action. Statements from Privates C.M. Cormack and F. Straney indicated that a shell had exploded literally on top of the group, and once the smoke cleared it was impossible to identify Sydney from the remains. Information from a Private Ridley (6014, B Company) indicated that the 9th Battalion had found his body and buried it, location unknown. Sydney Mills was officially listed as killed in action on 16/5/1918.

Since his body could not be located, Sydney is commemorated at the Ypres (Menin gate) Memorial, Ieper, West – Vlaarideren, Belgium. Other medals he was awarded posthumously include the 1914-1915 Star, the British War Medal, and the Victory Medal. A link to the Advertiser newspaper article, speaking of his death, is attached below:-

[The Roll of Honour](#)



Memorial at Quorn which lists SS Mills

References

- Service Record of Sydney Sylvanus Mills, officer number 2196
- The AIF Project
- Silent Voices by Robert Kearney, 2005
- Red Cross records

Additional Biography

Early Life

Sydney (Syd) Sylvanus Mills was born at Carrieton, South Australia on the 19th August 1889, the son of Howard Mills and Susan Margaret Jordan.

The Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922) - 23 August 1889

MILLS.— On the 19th August, at Carrieton, the wife of Howard Mills, of a son. Both well.

His father, Howard was a railway guard who worked in various locations around South Australia.

Syd was the eldest of six children according to the familypedia biography (above). Four of his siblings were Vera Velerie (b 1891, Broken Hill, NSW), Harold Hurtle (b 1894, Petersburg, SA), Ileen (or Eileen aka Queen b 1896, Yongala, SA) and Roland Roy (b 1899, Petersburg, SA).

Schooling

Syd attended Primary School at Petersburg. He was a member of the Petersburg Boys' Brigade and in November 1901 aged 12, he was in Class 3 of the brigade when he was signatory to a letter thanking Dr and Mrs Smythe for giving the boys a picnic.

"Social Side of the Petersburg Boys' Brigade."

Petersburg Times (SA : 1887 - 1919) - 29 November 1901

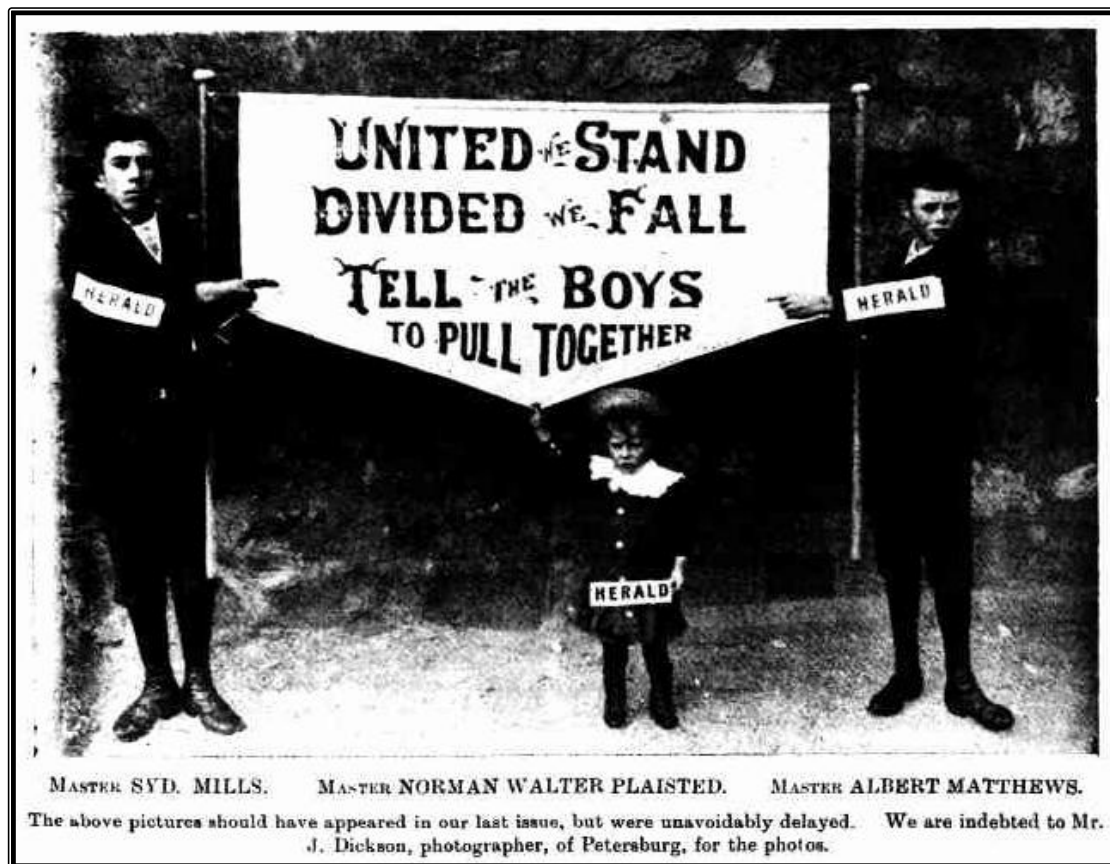
The following is a copy of a letter since sent to Dr. and Smythe:—"Petersburg Boys' Brigade Hall, 27th November, 1901—We, the undersigned, on behalf of No. 3 class of the Petersburg Boys' Brigade, beg to thank you for your great kindness in giving us a picnic on Saturday last at Hutton's Lagoon. We enjoyed ourselves thoroughly, had a good time, and we can assure you that we will long remember that picnic. We feel very grateful that you take such an interest in our class and hope you will long continue to do so. Signed—Willie Gleeson, Syd. Mills, Percy Chennell."

In June 1904, Syd was one of the banner carriers at the Petersburg Demonstration.

"THE PETERSBURG DEMONSTRATION"

Herald (Adelaide, SA : 1899 - 1910) - 11 June 1904

Banner Heading the Boys' Section in Procession



Syd Mills - Left

In October 1904, Syd passed three subjects (Geography, English History and Algebra) in the Primary Examinations. He was appointed an Unpaid Monitor at the School until 31st December 1905. He was given a bound volume of Standard Poets on leaving the School on December 1906 to pursue studies in Adelaide.

In 1906 he passed examination in Intermediate Solid Geometry, First Grade Model Drawing and First Grade Model Drawing. Syd attended the Pupil Teacher School (Adelaide High School) and he passed nine subjects (English Literature, English History*, Geography*, Latin, Arithmetic*, Algebra, Geometry, Inorganic Chemistry and Drawing - * with credit) in the Junior Examinations in December 1906. His results made him equal 32nd in the state.

Petersburg Times (SA : 1887 - 1919) - 8 January 1907

A year ago one of our boys, Sid Mills, went to the pupil teachers' training college in Adelaide, and took and kept a position at the top of his class. He is now enjoying his holiday, and has brought home a splendid year's record and success. He returns to college for another year, then comes back here to serve in the school for two years, and goes on to the University to finish his studies.



UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

TEACHERS

MILLS, Sydney Sylvanus

Teacher ID: 3560
Teacher number: 395
Name: MILLS, Sydney Sylvanus
Sex: M
Date of Birth: AUG 19, 1889

| Rank Appointed | Date Appointed | School | Salary | Service Year | Inspection % | Inspection Date | Classification | Inspector's Comments |
|----------------|----------------|------------|--------|--------------|--------------|-----------------|----------------|---|
| PUPT 1 | JAN 1 1906 | Petersburg | | 1906 | | | | VERY GOOD VERY GOOD |
| PUPT 2 | 1907 | Petersburg | | 1907 | | | | VERY GOOD VERY GOOD |
| PUPT 3 | 1908 | Petersburg | | 1908 | | | | EARNEST BUT LACKS POWER OF CONTROL SOME G WORK ARITH SPELL AND COMPN VERY POOR ACTIVE HARDWORKING LACK POLISH |

Miscellaneous: ED 1771/05

In December 1907, Syd passed eight subjects; English Literature, History, Latin, Arithmetic and Algebra, Geometry, Trigonometry*, Physics and Drawing - * with credit) in the Senior Examinations.

Syd became a Senior Cadet while at the Pupil Teacher School and he was appointed a Lieutenant on probation in April 1908.

In March 1909 Syd was appointed a Pupil Teacher at the Hindmarsh School.

He won a prize at the National Rifle Matches in the Military Section, in October 1910.

The Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931) - 3 October 1910

| SPECIAL MILITARY PRIZES. | | |
|---|--------------|----|
| Private W. J. Finley (D. 10th A.L.R.), | £2 | 45 |
| Sergeant G. Jennings (16th A.L.H.), | £1 10/ | 42 |
| Pt J. H. McKinnon, F. Co. Mt. Gamb., | £1 .. | 42 |
| J. G. J. Turner (Naval Cadets), | £1 | 42 |
| Private T. G. Springg (B 10th) | | 42 |
| Sergeant Purcell (E. 10th), | £1 | 42 |
| R. M. Haig, F., Mt. Gambier, | 10/ | 41 |
| Captain H. C. Hosking (Cadets), | 10/ | 40 |
| Lieutenant S. S. Mills (Cadets), | 10/ | 39 |
| F. Whitehead, F., Mount Gambier, | 10/ | 39 |
| Lieutenant E. K. Baker (B., 10th), | 10/ | 38 |
| Private F. H. Thomson, F., Mount Gambier, | counted out, | 38 |

University

Syd commenced studying at the University of Adelaide in 1910, undertaking studies in the Arts. He passed Intermediate Freehand in June 1911. In December 1911 he was equal first in the elocution examinations at the Elder Conservatorium he also passed the examination in History of the United Kingdom.

The examiner for the Robert Whinham prize in elocution at the Elder Conservatorium has recommended that the prize be awarded to Miss Idalia M. A. Morris and Mr. Sydney S. Mills, these competitors having been bracketed equal.

He maintained an interest in the Adelaide High School and was Assistant Honorary Secretary of the Old Scholars' Association in 1912.

The Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931) - 20 March 1912

ADELAIDE HIGH SCHOOL OLD SCHOLARS ASSOCIATION.

The ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the above will be held in the PRICE HALL, ADELAIDE HIGH SCHOOL, at 7.45 p.m. on FRIDAY, March 22.

All Old Scholars A.H.S., cordially invited.
N SYDNEY S. MILLS, Assistant Hon. Sec.

Syd continued his involvement in the Cadets and was appointed a Lieutenant in July 1912. He was a member of the Adelaide University Arts Association.

He passed both first and second year Latin in 1912 along with English Language and Literature.

University Sport

Syd played B Grade cricket for the AUCC in the 1911/12 and 1912/13 seasons. Previously while teaching at the Alberton Public School he had represented West Torrens East in B Grade in the 1910/11 season.

In the 1911/12 season, Syd batted on seven occasions for a total of 60 runs with a high score of 17 and an average of 8.5. In September 1912 he was appointed the B Grade Secretary of the club. In the 1912/13 season he also batted on seven for a total of 67 runs and an average of 9.5. His high score was 44 runs.

1911/12

1912/13

| UNIVERSITY B GRADE. | | | | | |
|---|------|------|------|-------|-------|
| —Batting Averages.— | | | | | |
| | Inn. | H.S. | N.O. | Runs. | Avg. |
| H. Powell | 8 | 60 | — | 189 | 23.6 |
| J. Strachan | 8 | 30 | 1 | 64 | 21.3 |
| K. R. Goode | 8 | 63 | — | 150 | 18.7 |
| H. W. D. Stoddart .. | 4 | 36 | — | 71 | 17.7 |
| I. E. Ashby | 9 | 11 | — | 129 | 14.3 |
| J. W. Blackett | 11 | 34 | 1 | 129 | 12.9 |
| A. Williams | 9 | 16 | 3 | 60 | 10.0 |
| R. Pavia | 4 | 25 | — | 36 | 9.0 |
| S. S. Mills | 7 | 17 | — | 60 | 8.5 |
| A. A. Moulden | 5 | 19 | — | 35 | 7.0 |
| I. B. Jones | 8 | 28 | 1 | 47 | 6.7 |
| R. Pender | 4 | 16 | 1 | 19 | 6.3 |
| L. Hurley | 4 | 8 | 1 | 17 | 5.6 |
| F. Williams | 6 | 9 | 1 | 24 | 4.6 |
| H. C. Nott | 6 | 7 | — | 20 | 3.3 |
| H. J. Penny, 3, 5, 0; L. G. Cant, 2, 4, 7, 56; G. M. Potts, 0*, 17, 0, 0, 0; P. Beare, 1*, 0*; R. Baker, 6, 17; E. P. Howard, 12, 3, 0, also batted. | | | | | |
| * Signifies not out. | | | | | |
| —Bowling.— | | | | | |
| | O. | M. | R. | W. | Avg. |
| A. A. Moulden | 38 | 7 | 90 | 8 | 11.25 |
| I. E. Ashby | 173 | 33 | 490 | 26 | 13.61 |
| R. Pavia | 55 | 5 | 111 | 7 | 15.85 |
| H. Powell | 104 | 30 | 300 | 16 | 18.75 |
| L. Hurley | 14 | 4 | 52 | 2 | 26 |
| A. Williams | 71 | 14 | 273 | 8 | 34.12 |
| G. M. Potts, 5 for 145; H. J. Penny, 2 for 59; R. Baker, 4 for 48; I. B. Jones, 1 for 42, also bowled. | | | | | |

| Season's Averages. | | | | | |
|--|------|-----|------|------|------|
| ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY B. | | | | | |
| —Batting.— | | | | | |
| | Inn. | R. | H.S. | N.O. | Avg. |
| H. H. Swift | 4 | 107 | 57* | 1 | 35.6 |
| C. R. Cole | 4 | 65 | 47* | 2 | 34.0 |
| A. M. Moulden | 13 | 334 | 122 | 2 | 30.5 |
| A. V. Davenport .. . | 6 | 112 | 45 | 1 | 22.4 |
| M. Badger | 8 | 149 | 67 | — | 18.3 |
| R. R. Pavia | 13 | 201 | 78* | 1 | 17.7 |
| A. Limb | 8 | 52 | 24 | — | 17.3 |
| E. P. Howard | 14 | 216 | 40 | 1 | 16.9 |
| W. J. Price | 10 | 164 | 59 | — | 16.4 |
| L. Hurley | 8 | 97 | 68* | 2 | 16.2 |
| G. S. Marshall | 7 | 103 | 44 | — | 14.7 |
| C. Richards | 5 | 70 | 50 | — | 14.0 |
| E. Tincke | 6 | 40 | 28 | 2 | 10.0 |
| J. C. P. Strachan .. | 4 | 29 | 16 | 1 | 9.6 |
| S. S. Mills | 7 | 67 | 44 | — | 9.6 |
| P. C. A. Fornochon .. | 8 | 71 | 33 | 1 | 8.8 |
| F. H. Beate | 8 | 52 | 22 | 2 | 6.7 |
| —Bowling.— | | | | | |
| | O. | R. | W. | Avg. | |
| R. R. Pavia | 92 | 309 | 30 | 12.3 | |
| G. S. Marshall | 28 | 123 | 10 | 12.3 | |
| Ashby | 25 | 94 | 7 | 13.4 | |
| E. P. Howard | 100 | 465 | 31 | 15.6 | |
| A. M. Moulden | 50 | 241 | 13 | 18.6 | |
| P. C. A. Fornochon .. | 47 | 349 | 18 | 19.4 | |
| L. Hurley | 34 | 171 | 7 | 24.4 | |
| Also bowled—Price, 2 for 37; Richards, 3 for 50. | | | | | |

The Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931) - 21 September 1912

CRICKET.

UNIVERSITY CLUB.

The annual meeting of the University Club was held on Friday afternoon, when Mr. H. J. Penny presided. The retiring secretary (Mr. G. C. Campbell), in his annual report, congratulated members on having had the most successful season since the club's entry into the South Australian Association. From eighth position on the premier-ship list three years ago, the club last season gained second place. University were the only team to defeat East Torrens (premiers) last summer, and if the catching had been better the students would have run that club more closely. The report concluded:—"For the coming season the prospects are uncertain. Out of the players who were with us last year we have to lose C. E. Dolling, C. F. Drew, N. E. Sappelt, G. C. Campbell, H. A. Rankin, and E. B. Jones. This will make a big difference to the batting strength of the team, but will not materially affect the bowling. Promising juniors will find an excellent opportunity to show their worth this year, and if the fielding and catching are only up to the standard set by our team two years ago the club should be occupying a very satisfactory place in the premier-ship contest at the end of the year. Several college boys should be at the University later on, in particular D. M. Steele, and they will no doubt add to the strength of our two teams."

Officers elected:—Secretaries, Messrs. K. N. Steele (A grade), and S. S. Mills (B grade); delegates to the association, Messrs. A. G. Moyes, K. N. Steele (A grade), H. Powell, and J. E. Ashby (B grade); committee, Dr. A. C. Wilton, and Messrs. A. G. Moyes, F. N. LeMessurier, and J. W. Blackett.

Career and Family Life

Syd was a pupil teacher at Hindmarsh, Aldgate and Alberton in 1910. He then undertook two years full time studies at the University of Adelaide before being appointed an Assistant Teacher in Charge at the Quorn School for the 1913 year.

"The Public High School, Quorn"

Quorn Mercury (SA : 1895 - 1954) - 28 January 1913

The Public High School, Quorn

The above were re-opened on Monday, January 20.

During the vacation several changes were made in the teaching staff.

Mr. Robert F. Cowan, B.A., was transferred to Adelaide High School, and Mr. Sydney H. Mills from Adelaide University was appointed to take his place in the Quorn High School.

Miss Winifred Murdock has been transferred from Hindmarsh to Quorn and Miss Winifred G. Rodgers, who has completed her three years' course of training in Adelaide High School, has been appointed junior teacher in Quorn.

By an alteration of the Regulations the school year will for the future begin in January and end in December. Quite a dozen parents took advantage of this opportunity to enter their children on the school roll during the week.



UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

TEACHERS

MILLS, Sydney Sylvanus

Teacher ID: 7781

Teacher number:

Name: MILLS, Sydney Sylvanus

Sex: M

1892 Reclassification: F 1912; D 1917

Date of Birth: 19 Aug 1889

Date of Death: 20 Sep 1917

Qualifications: 1906
8 subjects 1907
Hist U K (1); Education (1/20 1911; Latin 1st yr (1/2), 1912, Latin 2nd yr (1/2) 1912

Experience: P T 1908 - 1909, Petersburg & Hindmarsh

| Rank Appointed | Date Appointed | School | Salary | Service Year | Inspection % | Inspection Date | Classification | Inspector's Comments |
|----------------|----------------|-----------------------------|--------|--------------|-------------------|-----------------|----------------|--|
| Actg Asst | 1 Jan 1910 | Hindmarsh | 84/ | 1910 | | | | |
| LT for HT | 29 May 1910 | Aldgate | 84/ | 1910 | | | | |
| Actg Asst | 10 Jun 1910 | Hindmarsh | 84/ | 1910 | | | | T & M gd, willing, earnest, industrious (McB); V F, gd ability for T & M, appears to lack zeal (JTS) |
| Actg Asst | 25 Sep 1910 | Alborton | 84/ | 1910 | | | | |
| Student | | University Training College | | 1911 | | | | |
| Student | | University Training College | | 1912 | | | | |
| Asst in Charge | 1 Jan 1913 | Quorn D H S | 120/ | 1913 | | | | |
| Asst in Charge | 1 Jan 1914 | Quorn D H S | 130/ | 1914 | | | | |
| HT | 1 Oct 1914 | Pt Augusta West (VIII) | 145/ | 1914 | | | | |
| HT | 1 Jan 1915 | Pt Augusta West (VIII) | 145/ | 1915 | Eff Mark 67.0/75% | | | V Gd grasp, discursive, fraternal, exc disc & tone (JF); Cheery, strong, vigorous, improving (JF) |
| HT | 1 Jan 1916 | Pt Augusta West (VIII) | 145/ | 1916 | | | | |
| HT | 1 Jul 1916 | Pt Augusta West (VIII) | 170/ | 1916 | | | | |
| HT | 1 Jan 1917 | Pt Augusta West (VIII) | 195/ | 1917 | | | | |
| HT | 1 Jan 1918 | Pt Augusta West (VIII) | 195/ | 1918 | | | | |

Leave: LWOP 1 Aug - 4 Sep 1915; LWOP from Sep 1915 until return of AIF: Aust Imperial Forces.

Miscellaneous: University Training College 1911 & 1912. 224 Hindley St, Adelaide; Mile End.

Syd gave a recital at St Patrick's Day celebrations at Quorn in March 1913. By December 1913 he was secretary of the Oval Trust. He also gave elocution and vocal lessons while at Quorn.

Quorn Mercury (SA : 1895 - 1954) - 20 January 1914

Mr. Sydney S. Mills.
Teacher of Elocution and Vocal
Production

Stammering cured by special natural
Process.

Terms on application.

Address :—
High School, Quorn.

Syd played cricket for Quorn in the 1913/14 season, scoring 18 runs and taking 1 wicket for 10 runs in a match against Wilmington in March 1914. He also played for Capowie in a match against Australs in March 1914. He was Honorary Secretary of the Quorn Recreation Ground Trust in 1914.

On the 9th October 1914, Sydney S Mills married Miss Phoebe Harriet Taylor, the daughter of Mrs W Taylor of Pichi Richi, First Street, Quorn in a quiet wedding at St Matthew's Church, Quorn.

Observer (Adelaide, SA : 1905 - 1931) - 17 October 1914

Mills—Taylor.

A very quiet wedding was celebrated at St. Matthew's Church, Quorn, on Friday afternoon, October 9, by the Rev. E. W. M. Hines. The contracting parties were Mr. Sydney S. Mills (the recently appointed master of the Port Augusta West School) and Miss Phoebe Taylor, daughter of Mrs. W. Taylor, of Pichi Richi, First street, Quorn. The bride was given away by her brother, Mr. W. W. Taylor, of Partacoona Station, Gordon. She wore her travelling costume, a coat and skirt of small black-and-white check trimmed with fancy buttons, with hat en suite. The wedding party was motored to Richi Richi House, where afternoon tea was partaken of. The bridal couple afterwards motored to The Summit, where they caught the train to their future home.

"The Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922) - 24 November 1914

MILLS—TAYLOR.—On the 9th October, at St. Matthew's Church, Quorn, Sydney S. Mills, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. H. Mills, Booleroo Centre, to Phoebe, sixth daughter of Mrs. M. A. Taylor, Quorn, and the late William Taylor, of Hookina and Port Augusta.

Syd and Phoebe caught the train to Port Augusta shortly after their wedding and Syd commenced his new life as a husband and Head Teacher.

Syd quickly became a member of the Port Augusta West community and was appointed Captain of the Port Augusta West cricket team for the 1914/15 season and Secretary and a registered player of the Port Augusta West Football Club. Syd represented the football club on the trust appointed to control the Port Augusta West oval.

The Port Augusta Dispatch, Newcastle and Flinders Chronicle (SA : 1885 - 1916)

20 November 1914

Cricket.

TO MORROW'S MATCHES.

PORT AUGUSTA WEST v FLINDERS.

The following players will represent Port Augusta West v Flinders in a match to be played to-morrow on the West Site ground. Play to start at 2.30 p.m. sharp.

Port Augusta West—P W Burton, H Bouilly, O Dighton, R Gunn, S Harris, J Hall, S Hall, S Mills (Captain), J Parker, O Richardson, J G Scharenberg. Emergency—A Pycroft, S J Kuwila, J Dighton.

Flinders—F Carrig, R Fallerton, H McDonald, J Holdsworth, J Jarrett, C Yates, H McLuan, Hocking, D Omond, J Huddy, M McKelzie. Emergency—J Darragh.

When Hillary Dighton left Port Augusta West to join the AIF in July 1915, Syd organised and participated in the musical program given at his farewell.

World War I

Syd enlisted in the AIF on the 15th September 1916 aged 26 years and 1 month.

His application for a Commission states that he was 5'6" tall and 142 lbs. He had previously completed two years as Cadet (1906-07) and three years Commission in Cadets (1909-11). He was a Lieutenant in the Senior Cadets, 81st Battalion.

On the 31st August 1915 Syd qualified for rank of rank of 2nd Lieutenant and was appointed to the 15th Reinforcements, 10th Battalion.

Syd embarked on the 9th March 1916 onboard the "Mongolia" from Adelaide landing at Suez, Egypt on the 4th April 1916.

On the 20th May 1916 he left Alexandrina, Egypt onboard the HT "Invernia" and arrived at Marseilles, France on the 26th May 1916.

He was taken on strength of the Australian Divisional Base Depot (ADBDD) on the 29th May 1916 at Estaples, France.

Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1895 - 1954) - 11 March 1916



On the 13th July 1916 he marched out to join the 1st Australian Entrenching Battalion. At some time in late 1916 Syd wrote the following letter back to student at the Adelaide High School.

Adelaide High School Magazine

Extract of letter from Lieutenant S. S. Mills, O.C., 15/10 Infantry Battalion :-

"No doubt you have all heard of the doings of the Australian troops in the 'big push' on the Somme. We are now resting (by comparison) in a quieter part of the line in the 'little kingdom.' I suppose you heard of Freddy Jeffrey's death at Pozieres. He died fighting like a lion. He was a general favourite in his company, and will be deeply mourned by all his old pals of both sexes. Les. Caust is going strong, and is now 'admitted to the rank and privileges' of corporal.

"I am pleased to hear of those you mention going into camp. Our safety depends on someone coming along after us to help us in our time of need.

"You would appreciate a trip through France - particularly Southern France, from Marseilles to Paris. The people are wonderful. The women are truly beautiful, and also dress very beautifully. Black prevails everywhere, and yet the people are cheerful. It is a case of France smiling through her tears.' Am not so impressed with the Belgians. They are more stolid, and seem to be of a poorer race. One thing is marvelous, though, and that is the extraordinary tenacity with which the women and children stick to their homes, even though under the fire of the enemy guns. This part of the world is not a woman's paradise at present. They do all the hard labouring work - tilling the fields, etc. They seem to be marvelously successful, too, as the crops are simply wonderful. You cannot imagine the yield they get from the land, and every square inch of it is cultivated.

"Give my kind regards to all old friends at A.H.S

In November 1916 a letter was received from Cpl BA Clarke, Headquarters Staff, 24th Artillery Brigade, AIF France giving details of a gathering of Quorn boys. Syd was present at the gathering where the boys didn't talk about the war but reminisced about evenings at the Quorn Dance Club, singing in Mrs Bruse's cosy parlour and the exploits of the cricket team in the 1914 season.

"QUORN ON THE LOOSE." Quorn Mercury (SA : 1895 - 1954) - 30 November 1916

"QUORN ON THE LOOSE."

By B. A. C.

'Twas a night in mid-October that I straightened up my quarters, pitched all the dirty dixies outside, threw a bit more coal on the fire, and looked forward to a good evening. During the day I hunted round for a genius who could lay his hands on to a bottle of "Black and White," and I found him, and as darkness fell I sat me down, one eye on the blanket that kept the bottle still, and one eye out beyond the door.

Sounds dramatic, doesn't it? Anyhow, here's the facts! A few days ago I ran into a familiar face. I had last seen it through the bottom of a goodly sized glass—his glass, of course—before I left Quorn. He ran for some time the Dalgety establishment of Frank Young,—Roy Bennett! Only the absence of the proverbial feather enabled me to keep a rickety equilibrium. We made a most terrible wreck of a bottle of champagne. We toasted Quorn, our old street, hosts of old faces, and finished up the toast with Mum and Dad Bruse. Did I say one bottle? However, we located Trathen, who in those good old days of peace and quietness, used to juggle the coin of the realm

around, under, and over the polished counter of the National Bank. Of course this meant another toasting affair, and we ran through "The Oval," all our "staunch supporters," and hid away an extra one for that good old sportsman Robby Thompson! And then the grand finale! Bennett located Sid Mills to-day, hence the looking forward to a good evening. Sid, who used in those days (it seems long ago) to haunted the cracked and weather-beaten premises known as our high school, and guide the rising generation through the awkward tracks of Euclid, Latin, and a host of other knotty problems. To-day he leads a section of the 10th

day he leads a section of the 10th Battalion through subjects no less knotty—barbed wire and trenches. And here to-night we all met in my humble quarters, and the grips we gave and took were live ones. We didn't mention war. For the time we wiped it clean outside, and shut the door. We danced again through those evenings of the Quorn Dance Club, with old J. B. in the lead! We got into Mrs. Bruse's cosy parlour and sang all those old songs again. (Another Bob in here!) We went again through the 1914 cricket season. Theoretically we met Hawkers, and hit Hawker to Hookina, hit Wilmington's best into the Gulf, and lost all the balls in Port Augusta. We lived again through the last Easter match against Backman's eleven from Adelaide. Charlie Backman was a true sportsman, and as a sportsman he gave all he had to give on Gallipoli! With my digs full of smoke, an empty bottle on the hearth in company with four empty lobster tins, and both hands of the watch pointing to heaven, we found quite an interesting host of Quorn lads on the job in France. Eric O'Malley and Friend Willcocks are both round handy somewhere, and we'll find them shortly. Bert Hudson is looking cheerful in one of our batteries. Fred Discher is prowling round within the limit, and Dave Hourigan, who juggled the bottles of hellfire and bittersweets in Cobbins', is a valiant member of the gallant 10th Battalion. Jack Pring and Jammy Smart I met further down the line, isolated through mumps! and Geo. Bockelberg and one of the Nadebaum lads looked me up also, both looking particularly fit. I know there are others that we haven't met, and we were proud of the old town's record. We have read the definition of the term conscription as applied to Australia, and, believe me, we're voting "Yes" solid! I speak now on behalf of your Quorn men out here. We can picture now the old faces faces we left behind, and we know that there are many of our supporters in the sports field, who to-day are keeping the wheels of our industries running, and we feel that they can support us in the field here. For

can support us in the field here. For instance, take a little calculation! A Battalion comprises roughly 1,000 men. If it loses 500, and our men fail to come forward from Australia to fill the breach, is the life of the Battalion shortened? Is there less work to be done? No! Who suffers? You! Our old supporters need only think this over, and you'll see where you can help us. I'm writing—not as a recruiting agent, but as one who has been in it from the word go! is proud of the old land, and who knows the vital necessity to keep unbroken the divisions of Australia. Finally I've written to let our old supporters know that I've met many an old face from Quorn, and I want to say right now that your lads who wielded the willow and punted the leather for the sporting honour of the town are to-day in the line where the Empire's "Men" are. I know what they've been through during the past few months, but they're playing the same old game and throwing all into the scale, if necessary, for the honour of the old town, for home, and for their people. We saw each other home to our digs last night. These French roads are rotten!—2130, Cpl. B. A. Clarke, Headquarters Staff, 24th Artillery Brigade, A.I.F., France.

On the 2nd December 1916 Syd was promoted to Lieutenant with the 10th Battalion. Sometime in February 1917, Syd received a parcel of smokes from the Quorn Smokes Club and on the 18th February he wrote to thank the club for the variety of good smokes they had sent.

"LETTERS FROM SOLDIERS."

Quorn Mercury (SA : 1895 - 1954) - 15 June 1917

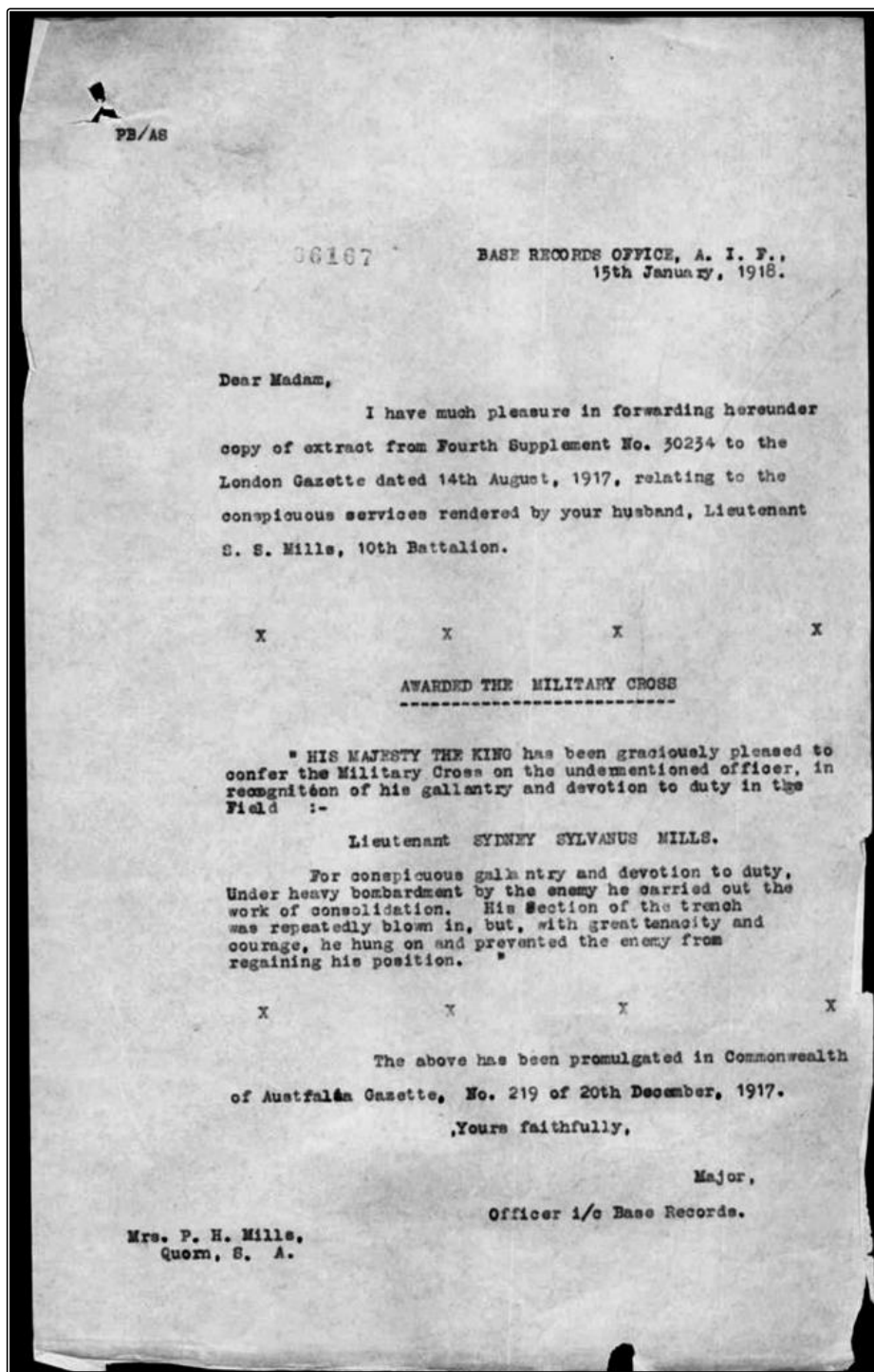
LETTERS FROM SOLDIERS.

Miss E. Griffin, hon. secretary Smoke and Tobacco Society, Quorn, has recently received several letters from the front acknowledging the receipt of parcels of smokes, etc., which had been sent by this society at the end of last year. Two of the numerous letters received read as follows:—
Somewhere in France, 6/3/17. Dear Miss Griffin, Hon. Sec. Smoke and Tobacco Society, Quorn—I received a parcel of smokes from the above society a few days ago. I will ask you to convey my many thanks to the members of the above society for their great kindness for sending me a parcel of smokes which were greatly appreciated. Kindest regards to yourself and members of the society.—
Yours sincerely,
Edg. R. A. Bennett.

Somewhere in France, February 18, 1917. Dear Miss Griffin—I have to thank you and the members of the Quorn Smokes Club for the splendid parcel of smokes I received from you some days ago. Miss Mills had informed me—it seems ages ago—that the parcel had been dispatched, and I had given it up as lost, as several of our mails have gone to Davy Jones' locker. However, it came to hand through our quartermaster recently, and I was delighted with it. The variety of good smokes you girls sent was astonishing to my friends here. Many of the lines were purely Australian, and therefore especially acceptable, as they are not procurable over here. I must thank you and the other girls very sincerely for a very fine and selected gift. I have not seen many Quorn chaps over here lately, but some months ago I had a very enjoyable evening with Troth, Roy Bennett, and Ben Clarke. At that time they were all well. I have heard recently that Troth has received another promotion since I last saw him. Give my kindest regards to all the Quorn folk, and please accept my most grateful thanks for your gift.—
Very sincerely yours,

Sydney S. Mills.

On the 2nd July 1917 Syd was awarded the Military Cross for conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty.



The Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929) - 7 July 1917

LIEUT. S. S. MILLS. M.C.
QUORN, July 5.—Mrs. S. S. Mills, of Quorn, has received word that her husband, Lieut. Sydney S. Mills, has gained the Military Cross while on active service in France. Lieut. Mills before enlisting was head teacher at the State Continuation School here, and is son-in-law of Mrs. W. Taylor, of First street, Quorn. He has been at the front for more than two years.

A report in the Quorn Mercury on the 13th July 1917 states that Syd was on furlough in England and Ireland after receiving the Military Cross however there is no mention of this furlough in Syd's service record.

He spent most of August 1917 at the Intelligence and Scouting School, France before returning to his unit on the 25th August.

Syd was gathering troops for an attack on Polygon Wood, near Ypres, Belgium when an enemy barrage hit his position. He was declared as missing in action on the 20th September 1917.

The Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929) - 12 October 1917

Mrs. S. S. Mills, of Quorn, has been officially informed that her husband, Lieut. Sydney S. Mills, M.C., of 10th Infantry Battalion, has been missing since September 20.

ORIGINAL STATEMENT ECHELON

2412/8/8

C O P Y

Statement made by 5460 Pte Cormack C.M. 10th Bn:

re Lieut Mills "MC" S.S. 10th Bn:

Missing 20.9.17.

During the attack on the 20th Day of September 1917, Lieut Mills was ahead with a few men. I saw a shell burst practically on top of the party, and after the smoke had cleared, no trace was left of the above-named Officer.

Dated at, Sandhills,

9/5/18

(SGD) C.M. Cormack.

Statement made and signed before me

(SGD) T.Berry Lieut.

14 MAY 1918

C O P Y

Statement made by No.771 Pte Straney P. 10th Btn.

re Lieut Mills "MC" S.S. 10th Btn.
Missing 20.9.17.

On the morning of the 20th day of September 1917, I was about 15 yards from Lieut Mills S.S. "MC". During the bombardment by the enemy, I saw a shell land practically on top of Lieutenant Mills and after the smoke, etc had cleared, he was that badly knocked about that identifications could not be secured.

Dated at Sandhill Camp this 24th day of March 1918.

(SGD) P. Straney.

Statement made and signed before me

(SGD) L.O. Berry
 Lieutenant.

27 MAR 1918

Death

Tragically for Phoebe and the Mills family it took many months for Syd's fate to be accurately determined by the military. Syd was 28 years of age when he gave his life in the service of his country. Syd's wife never remarried, she lived at Quorn and died aged 71, on the 2nd August 1956.

The Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929) - 6 June 1918

MILLS.—On the 20th September, 1917 (reported missing), now reported killed in action, Sydney S. Mills, M.C., Lieut., 10th Battalion, dearly loved husband of P. H. Mills, Quorn, and beloved eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. H. Mills, Booleroo Centre.

The Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922) - 15 July 1918

MR. AND MR HOWARD MILLS and FAMILY, of Booleroo Centre, wish to THANK their many friends for cards, letters, telegrams, and expressions of sympathy in the late sad loss of their beloved son, Lieutenant Sydney S. Mills, M.C., reported killed in France, September 20th, 1917.

THE AUSTRALIANS. BIOGRAPHICAL.

LATE LIEUT. S. MILLS, M.C.

Lieut. Sydney S. Mills, M.C. (10th Battalion), who was posted as missing on September 20, 1917, has now been reported as having been killed on that day at Polygon Wood. The deceased was head master of the Port Augusta West State School when he left for Mitcham Camp on July 31, 1915. He departed from South Australia as O.C. of the 15th/10th Reinforcements on March 9, 1916. After a stay of six months at Tel-el-Kebir, he left for France, and arrived there on May 26. He took part in each engagement of his battalion, from Pozieres (August, 1916) to Bullecourt (May, 1917), when he was awarded the M.C. He also received a letter from Gen. Birdwood, congratulating him upon his skill and bravery in battle.

Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1895 - 1954) - 6 July 1918

Lieutenant SYDNEY S. MILLS, M.C., 10th Battalion, who was reported missing on September 20, 1917, was killed on that day at Polygon Wood. He was headmaster at the Port Augusta West school when he left for Mitcham camp in July, 1915. He sailed from South Australia in charge of reinforcements in March, 1916, and reached France in May. He took part in each engagement of his battalion from Pozieres (August, 1916) to Bullecourt (May, 1917), where he was awarded the M.C., and received a highly complimentary letter from General Birdwood, who said:—"You displayed great initiative and energy in carrying out the consolidation of your position under an intense bombardment by the construction of strong and bombing posts. On the following day, when the enemy shell fire threatened the destruction of one of your listening posts, you most gallantly dashed forward across the open under heavy fire and brought in the men, with only one casualty, while you carried the wounded man back to safety. Immediately the hostile barrage lifted you re-established and manned the post."

Adelaide High School Magazine

Lieut. Sidney S. Mills joined this School in its pupil teacher days. Subsequently he went through the Training College at the University, and entered the ranks of the public school teachers. At one time he was in charge of the Quorn District High School, and it was there that he met his future wife, Miss Taylor. Later he became head teacher of the Port Augusta West School, which position he left to join the A.I.F. He gave his life for his home and his country on the battlefields of France. All who knew him loved him for his frank, free, and happy disposition, and his readiness to help a friend in need.

Adelaide High School Magazine



On the first anniversary of Syd's death various tributes from Phoebe and the Mills family were printed in the South Australian newspapers.

The Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929) 20 September 1918

MILLS.—In sad but loving memory of my dear husband, Sydney S. Mills, M.C., lieutenant, 10th Battalion, reported killed on the 20th September, 1917.
He did his duty, and his bit.
—Inserted by his loving wife, P. H. Mills, Quorn.

The Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931) - 20 September 1918

MILLS.—In loving memory of our dear son, Sydney, who was killed in action on September 20, 1917.

No cross records his well beloved name,
No tomb in days to come shall tell
In golden letters of the fame
That crowned him, even as he fell. R.I.P.
—Inserted by his loving father and mother.

263x264

MILLS.—Reported killed September 20th, Lieutenant Sydney S. Mills, M.C., 10th Battalion, dearly beloved brother of V. and L. Conlon, Booleroo Centre.

Our dearest brother is now at rest,
Free from earthly pain;
The only comfort left to us,
Is that we'll meet again. R.I.P.

263x264


MILLS.—In loving and lasting memory of my dearly beloved brother, Lieutenant Syd. Mills, M.C., 10th Battalion, killed in action on September 20, 1917. Greater love hath no man.—Inserted by his loving brother, Roland. 263x264


MILLS.—In loving memory of Lieutenant S. S. Mills, M.C., killed in action on September 20, 1917, previously reported missing on that date.

No one knows the silent heartache,
Only those can tell
Who have lost their best and dearest
Without a last farewell.

—Inserted by his loving sister and brother-in-law, Queen and Jim, B. Centre. 263x264

The bulk of Syd's effects were returned to Phoebe per the "Bulla" in June 1919, however one item, a cigarette case, engraved "SS Mills" arrived per the "Beltana" on the 22nd May 1919. The cigarette case had been located in the leather trunk of the late Lieut WFL Dodson, 10th Battalion (who had been declared missing in action on 20/21 September 1917.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Australian Imperial Force. |  | A.I.F. KIT STORE, 110. GREYHOUND ROAD, HAMMERSMITH, LONDON, W.6. |
| Inventory of Effects of - Lieutenant S.S. Mills, M.C., 10th Battalion, A.I.F. | | |
| Forwarded to - next-of-kin -WIFE- Mrs P.H. Mills, Quorn, <u>SOUTH AUSTRALIA.</u> | | |
| Extracted from Leather Trunk containing effects of the late Lieutenant W.F.L. Dodson, 10th Battalion | | |
| <u>one envelope (sealed) containing:-</u> METAL CIGARETTE CASE. | | |
| <u>shipped per "BELTANA" 22/5/19.</u> | | |
| No. of Package | D/S. 49998 in case 2231. | Checked by <i>FEB</i> |

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| Australian Imperial Force. |  | A.I.F. KIT STORE, 110. GREYHOUND ROAD, HAMMERSMITH, LONDON, W. 6. |
| AK | | |
| Inventory of Effects of - Lieutenant. S.S. Mills, M.C. 10th. Batt'n. A.I.F. | | |
| Forwarded to - N.O.K. Wife, Mrs. Phoebe Harriet Mills, Quorn, <u>South Australia.</u> | | |
| <u>Received from Messrs. Thos. Cook & Sons, 5.11.17.</u> | | |
| <u>ONE LEATHER TRUNK (sealed) Containing:-</u> | | |
| Coat Hanger, 1 Walking Stick, 4 Prs Slacks, 1 Cap, 1 Pr Braces, Playing Cards, 1 Mosquito Net, 4 Cap Comforters, 1 Cardigan Jacket, 11 Collars, 1 Tie, Chevrons, 1 Tobacco Pouch, 1 Ash Tray, 3 Towels, 2 Fly Whisks, 1 Pr Slippers, 1 Sam Browne Belt, Drawing Material, 1 Pr Spectacles in Case 1 Cigarette Holder, 1 Book, 1 Muffler, 1 Fly Net, 7 Shirts, 3 Pr Underpants 1 Pr Gloves, 1 Linen Bag, 3 Suits Pyjamas, 3 Singlets, Postcards, Letters & Papers, 3S.D. Tunics, 1 Pr Riding Breeches, 3 Prs Slacks, 1 Watch (Damaged), 1 Roulette Wheel. | | |
| No. of Package | D/S. 47389 in Case No. 1757. | Checked by |

Australian Imperial Force.



A.I.F. KIT STORE
110, GREYHOUND ROAD,
HAMMERSMITH,
LONDON, W. 6.

AK

Inventory of Effects of - Lieutenant. S.S. Mills, MC, 10th. Batt'n, A.I.F.

Forwarded to - N.O.K. wife,
Mrs. P.S. Mills,
Quorn,
South Australia.

Received from Cox's Shipping Agency, 10.10.17.

KIT BAG EXTRACTED FROM SACK OF KIT (sealed) Containing:-

2 Razors, Postcards, 4 Pcs Underpants, 1 Singlet, Books, 1 Scarf, 1 Leather Vest, 1 Cap Comforter, 1 Balaclava Cap, 1 Pr F.S. Boots.

BULLA

D/S. 47411. in Case No. 1758.

No. of Package

Checked by

Australian Imperial Force.



A.I.F. KIT STORE.
110, GREYHOUND ROAD,
HAMMERSMITH,
LONDON, W. 6.

AK.8.

Inventory of Effects of - Lieut. S.S. Mills, MC, 10th. Batt'n, A.I.F.

Forwarded to - N.O.K. wife,
Mrs. P.S. Mills,
Quorn,
South Australia.

Received from the field, 10.10.17.

ONE GREEN VALISE (SEALED) Containing:-

Military Cross Ribbon, 1 Coin, Letters, 1 Safety Razor, Books, Photos, Soap Box, Hair Brush, 10 Handkerchiefs, 1 Cap, 1 Mirror, 1 Pr Binoculars in Case, 1 Razor Strop, 1 Lanyard, 9 Collars, 4 Ties, 1 Singlet, 1 Pr Underpants, 7 Pr Socks, 1 Pipe, 3 Shirts, Pyjama Trousers, 1 Pr Gloves, 1 Air Pillow, 1 Rug, 1 Blanket, 1 Sam Browne Belt, 1 S.D. Tunic.

BULLA

D/S. 47410 in Case No. 1758.

No. of Package

Checked by

Having no known grave Syd is commemorated at the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Lieutenant

MILLS, SYDNEY SYLVANUS

Died 20/09/1917

Aged 28

10th Bn.

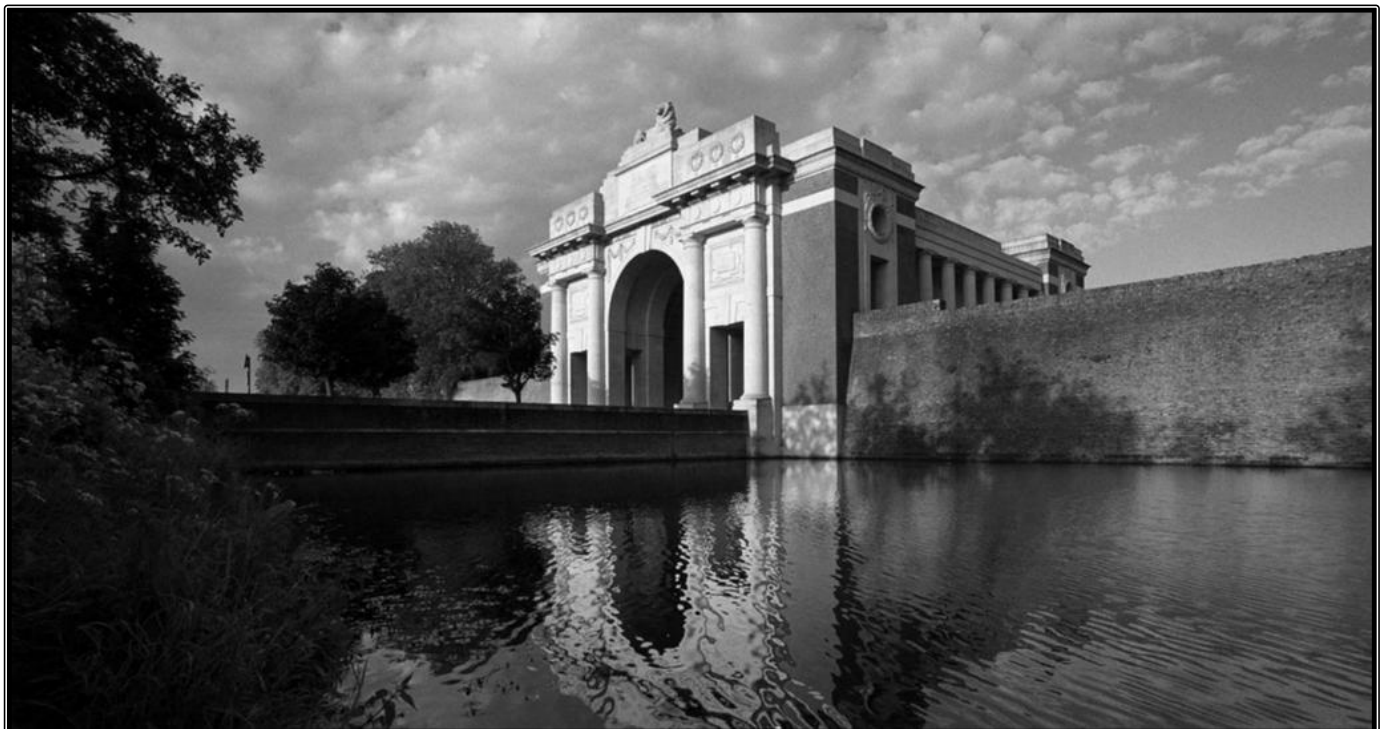
Australian Infantry, A.I.F.

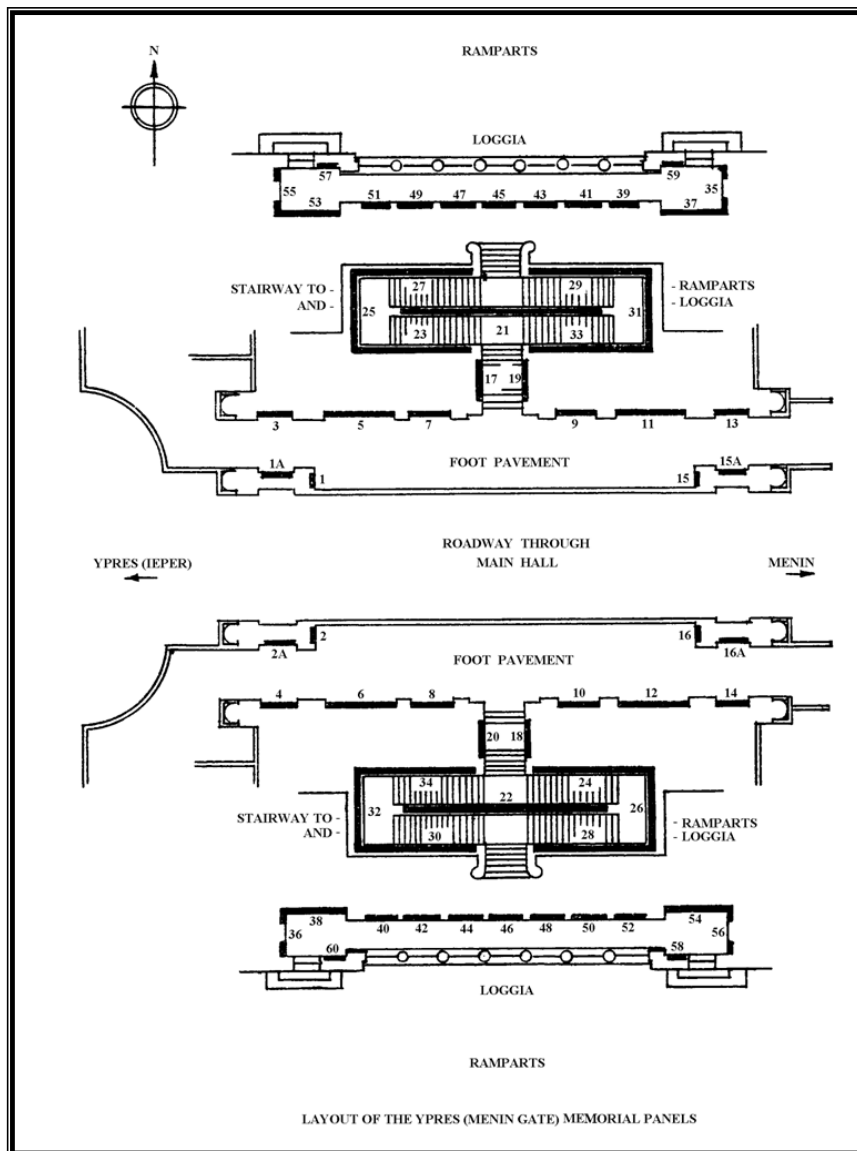
M C

Son of Howard and Susan Margaret
Mills; husband of Phoebe H. Mills, of
Quorn, South Australia. Native of
Carrieton, South Australia.



Menin Gate



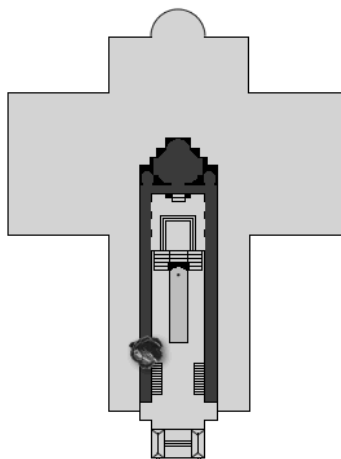


SS Mills at Panel 7 - 17 - 23 - 25 - 27 - 29 - 31.

Australian War Memorial

Location on the Roll of Honour

Sydney Sylvanus Mills's name is located at panel 60 in the Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial (as indicated by the poppy on the plan).



Sources and Acknowledgements

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Rob O'Shannassy, Janne Filmer and Kym Beilby (AUCC & AUFC WWI Researchers)