



# **Capt. Sydney Ernest Holder**

**Mention in Dispatches**



**Played with Adelaide University**



**Football Club: Intervarsity 1908**

**Sports Awards: Blues – Lacrosse (1912) & Tennis (1913)**

**Degrees obtained MB BS (1913)**

## ***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 Ernest Holder. It is compilation of information and photographs collected from a variety of historical sources.***

## The AIF Project

<https://www.aif.adfa.edu.au/showPerson?pid=140678>




### Sydney Ernest HOLDER

Place of birth	Burra South Australia
Religion	Methodist
Occupation	Medical practitioner
Address	College Park, South Australia
Marital status	Married
Age at embarkation	27
Next of kin	Wife, Mrs D L Holder, 38 Marlborough Street, College Park, South Australia
Enlistment date	7 September 1916
Rank on enlistment	Captain
Unit name	<a href="#">Medical Officers</a>
Embarkation details	Unit embarked from Sydney, New South Wales, on board HMAT A18 <i>Wiltshire</i> on 7 February 1917
Rank from Nominal Roll	Captain
Unit from Nominal Roll	3rd Light Horse Regiment
Fate	Returned to Australia 20 July 1919

## Service Record

<http://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=5844023>

W11295. WTH

**AUSTRALIAN**  **MILITARY FORCES.**

**AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.**

**ATTESTATION PAPER OF PERSONS ENLISTED FOR SERVICE ABROAD**

No. Lapt. Name HOLDER. Sydney Ernest  
Unit A.A.M.C  
Joined on 7/9/16

**Questions to be put to the Person Enlisting before Attestation.**

1. What is your Name ?	...	...	1. <u>Sydney Ernest Holder</u>
2. In or near what Parish or Town were you born ?	...	near the Town of <u>Burna</u> in the County of <u>South Australia</u>	2. In the Parish of <u>Koorunga</u> in or
3. Are you a natural born British Subject or a Naturalized British Subject ? (N.B.—If the latter, papers to be shown.)	...	...	3. <u>N.B</u>
4. What is your age ?	...	...	4. <u>26 1/2</u>
5. What is your trade or calling ?	...	...	5. <u>medical Practitioner</u>
6. Are you, or have you been, an Apprentice ? If so, where, to whom, and for what period ?	...	...	6. <u>No</u>
7. Are you married ?	...	...	7. <u>Yes</u>
8. Who is your next of kin ? (Address to be stated) ...	...	...	8. <u>(wife) Mrs O.L. Holder</u> <u>38 Marlborough Street</u> <u>College Park. South Australia</u>
9. Have you ever been convicted by the Civil Power ?	...	...	9. <u>no</u>
10. Have you ever been discharged from any part of His Majesty's Forces, with Ignominy, or as Incurable 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. <u>no</u>
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. <u>no</u>
12. Have you stated the whole, if any, of your previous service ?	...	...	12. <u>yes</u>
13. Have you ever been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's Service ? If so, on what grounds ?	...	...	13. <u>no</u>
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. <u>yes</u>
15. Are you prepared to undergo inoculation against smallpox and enteric fever ?	...	...	15. <u>yes</u>

Sydney Ernest Holder 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 two-fifths of the pay payable to me from time to time during my service for the support of my wife \* † wife and children

Date 7/9/16 Signature of Person Enlisted. S. E. Holder

wo 57269

\* 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.

## RSL Virtual Memorial

<https://rslvirtualwarmemorial.org.au/explore/people/267838>

### HOLDER, Sydney Ernest

**Service Number:** S36298

**Enlisted:** 7 September 1916, Discharged 30 September 1919

**Last Rank:** Major

**Last Unit:** [Medical Officers](#)

**Born:** Burra, SA, 22 February 1890

**Home Town:** [College Park](#), Norwood Payneham St Peters, South Australia

**Schooling:** Prince Alfred College

**Occupation:** Medical Practitioner

**Died:** Daw Park, SA, 9 February 1953, aged 62 years, cause of death not yet discovered

**Cemetery:** [Centennial Park Cemetery, South Australia](#)  
General B Path O, Grave 9

#### World War 1 Service

**7 Sep 1916:** Enlisted Australian Army, Captain, [Australian Medical Team](#), Discharged 30 September 1919

**16 Jan 1917:** Embarked Captain, [Medical Officers](#), HMAT Bulla, Adelaide

**16 Jan 1917:** Involvement Captain, [Medical Officers](#)

#### World War 2 Service

**3 Sep 1939:** Involvement Major, SN S36298

**16 Jul 1946:** Discharged



## Australian War Memorial

<https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/P02171.002>



Middle Row – second from left is believed to be Dr Sydney E Holder

**ID number** P02171.002

**Collection type** [Photograph](#)

**Object type** Black & white

**Physical description** Black & white

**Description** Deir-El-Belah, Palestine. c.1917. Group portrait of officers of the 3rd Australian Light Horse Field Ambulance (ALHFA) sitting in front of a tree. Left to right: back row: Captain (Capt) William George Tregear, Capt Andrew Bernard Morris and Capt James Eustace Shelly. Middle row: Capt Henry George Leahy, a doctor, Capt Sydney Ernest Holder (?), Colonel Stuart and Capt Robert (Bert) Grieve Woods. Front: Lieutenant Francis Aloysius Comins, a dentist with the Australian Dental Corps which is attached to the 3rd ALHFA.

## Published Biography

*Blood Sweat and Fears: Medical Practitioners and Medical Students of South Australian who Served in World War 1,*  
C Verco, A Summers, T Swain & M Jelly. July 2014

### HOLDER Sydney Ernest

MB BS



1890 - 1953



Sydney Ernest Holder was born on the 22nd February 1890 at Koorunga near Burra, SA. He was the sixth child and third son of Sir Frederick William Holder and his wife Julia Maria nee Stephens. Sir Frederick was twice Premier of South Australia and the first Speaker of the House of Representatives. They lived at 50 Sydenham Rd, Norwood. Holder was educated at Prince Alfred College. He won a South Australian Scholarship to study medicine at the University of Adelaide in 1907 and was awarded Blues for tennis and lacrosse. He was also a devout member of the Methodist Church. After his graduation in 1913 Holder completed his residency at Adelaide Hospital.

Holder enlisted in the AIF on the 7th July 1916. He was commissioned as a captain in the AAMC on the 13th September 1916. He married Dorothy Lillian Godlee at Kent Town Methodist Church, on the 28th September 1916. His wife of 38 Marlborough St, College Park, was named as his next of kin. He was 5ft 10ins, weighed 12st 8lbs, and could ride a horse. After 3 months of Camp Duty in 4 MD, he embarked for the Middle East in January 1917. After spending two months with 1 LH Training Regiment, he was posted to 3 LHFA at Marakeb in April 1917. He was transferred to 12 LHR at Belah in January 1918 and served with this unit until the end of the war. He contracted malaria and was evacuated to the 14 AGH. He returned to Australia in July 1919 with his appointment terminated at the 4 MD on the 30th

September 1919. He was issued with the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Holder practised with Dr F L Thyer (SA Rhodes Scholar 1924) in Kadina, South Australia for about 25 years after the war. He became a town councillor, Medical Health Officer for the Kadina Corporation, and HMO for the Wallaroo Hospital. He was a prominent Prince Alfred College Old Collegian. He loved golf, tennis bowls and cricket. He was a member of the Repatriation Commission. Holder, in WW2, served as a major at 54 Camp Hospital, Loveday, South Australia and at 10 CCS in the Northern Territory. Sydney Ernest Holder died on Monday the 9th February 1953 at the Repatriation General Hospital, Daw Park aged 62 years and was survived by his 3 daughters. His son, Sydney John Holder, served in WW2 as a Flying Officer in the RAAF. He was killed in a flying accident in England in December 1944 while on secondment to 271 Sqn RAF. He is buried at Cirencester, Gloucestershire. Holder had two brothers who also served in WW1 Lieutenant Evan Morecott Holder and Lieutenant Clement Gladstone Holder.

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#### Sources:

<http://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/scripts/Imagine.asp?B=5844023>  
Likeman R., "From the Jungle to the Desert" Slouch Hat Publications 2012.  
Photo, PAC Collection. NLA Trove.

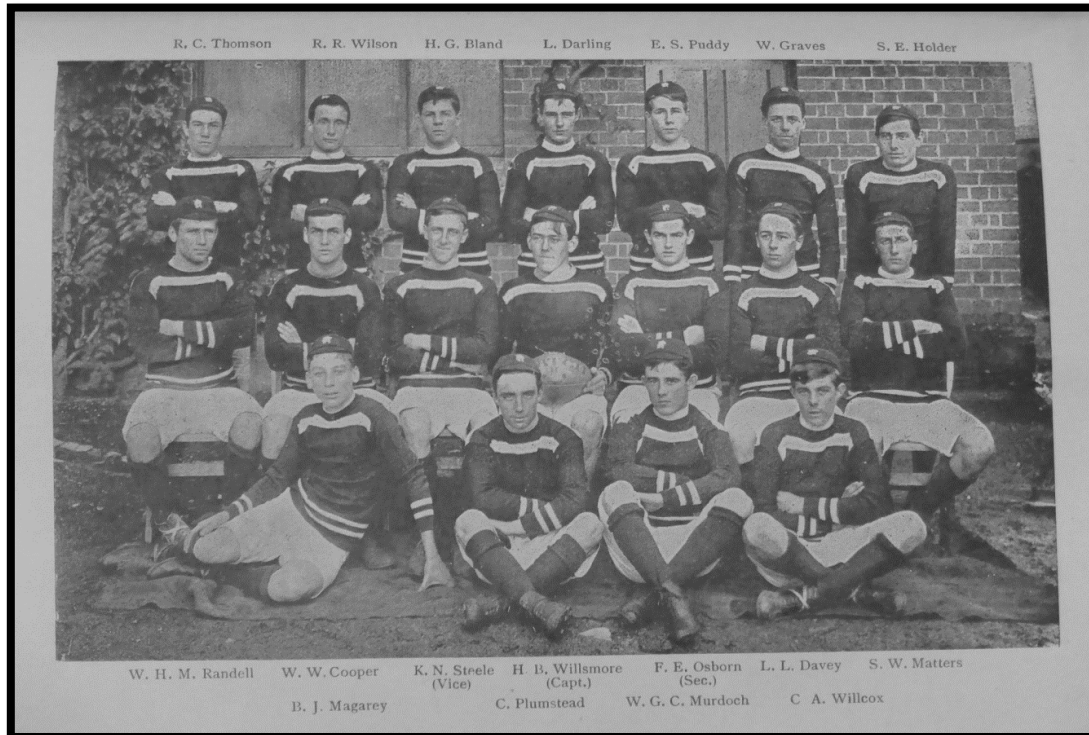


## Additional Biography

### Education

**Sydney Ernest Holder** attended Prince Alfred College (PAC) and in 1907 was awarded an Entrance Scholarship to study medicine at Adelaide University. While at PAC he was a member of the 1907 1<sup>st</sup> XVIII Football team and a member of the Intercollegiate team that year.

### 1907 - PAC Intercollegiate Football Team



### University

Sydney commenced studying Medicine at Adelaide University in 1908 and graduated MBBS in 1913.

### Adelaide University Medical Graduates 1913

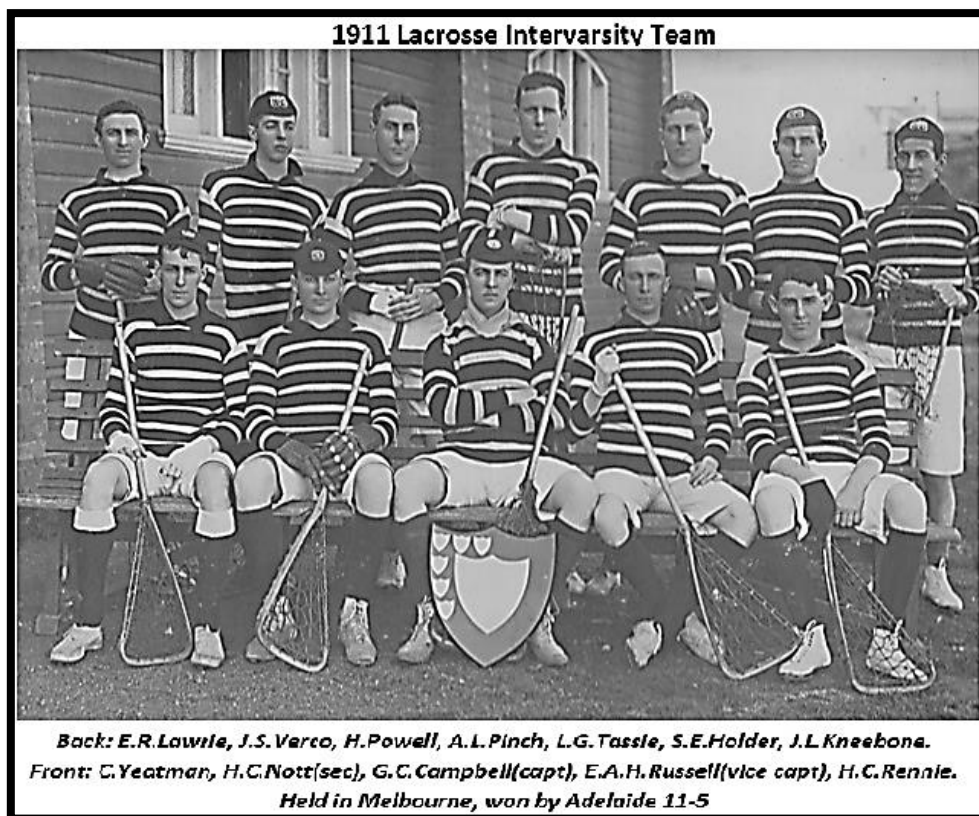


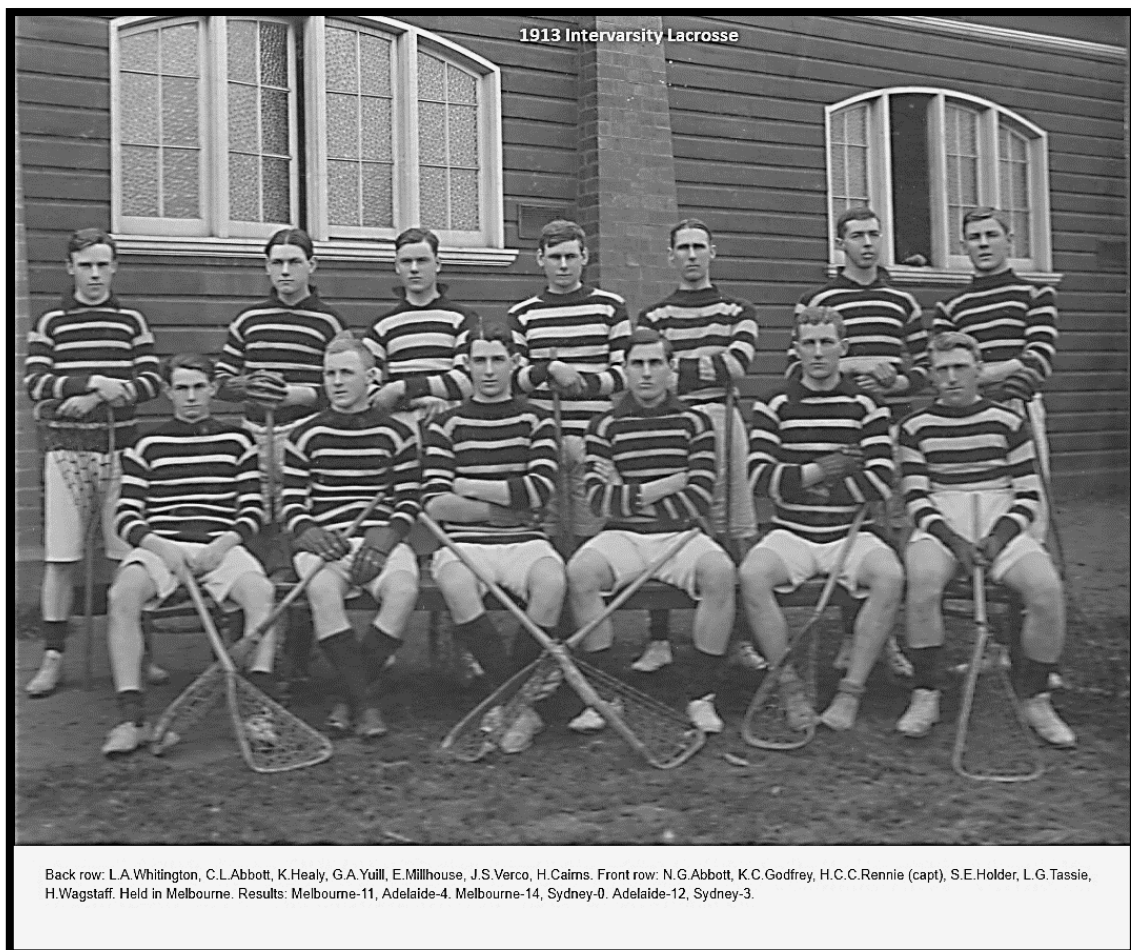


## University Sport

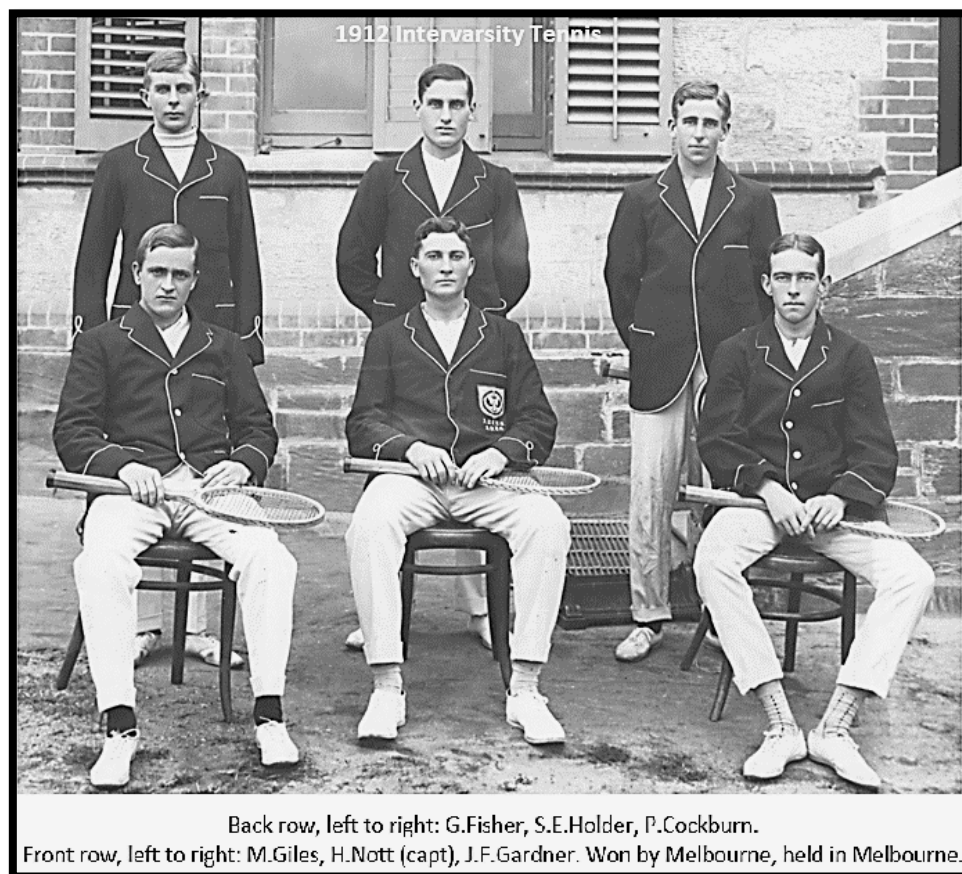
**Football** – Sydney had played football while a student at Prince Alfred College, but the year he started his course there was not a University team playing in any official competition. However, Sydney was one of the two reserves for the Adelaide University 1908 Intersivity Football match played at Adelaide Oval against Melbourne University. His elder brother Evan Morecott Holder was in the eighteen. There also was no football team the following year so Sydney took up Lacrosse in 1909.

**Lacrosse** – Sydney played Lacrosse for the University commencing in the C grade in 1909 and progressing to the A grade in 1911 and playing “centre”. He represented Adelaide University at Intersivity matches in 1911, 1912 & 1913 and was awarded his Blue for Lacrosse in 1912.





*Tennis* – Sydney played tennis for Adelaide University from 1908 to at least January 1915, he also played in the Intersivity completions in 1912, 1913 and 1914. He gained a Blue for tennis in 1913 making him a Double Blue.





## Early Career

After graduation Sydney was appointed as a House Surgeon at the Adelaide Hospital from 1 February 1914 for a year. On the completion of his residency he moved to Kadina, SA, in February 1915 replacing Dr Charles F Drew in practice with Dr C.E.C. Wilson. To the relief of the Kadina Tennis Club, Sydney also replaced Dr Drew in the tennis team.

## World War I

Sydney became a Captain in the AAMC Reserve in October 1915. He enlisted in July 1916 and married in September of that year. In January 1917 he departed for the front. His wife, Dorothy gave birth to their first child (a daughter, Alison Joyce) on the 20<sup>th</sup> July 1917. In August 1917 it was reported in the South Australian papers that Sydney had been Mentioned in Despatches. Sydney did not return to Australia until July 1919.





## **Between the Wars**

Sydney returned to his practice in the Kadina after the war. His only son, Sydney John, was born in 1920 followed daughters, Sheila Margaret in 1922 and Charlotte Ruth in 1928.

Sydney was heavily involved in the local community, in addition to golf, tennis, bowls and cricket (mentioned above), Sydney also played Bridge, he was Patron of the YP Football Association and donor of the "Holder Medal" for many years, Patron of the Wallaroo Swimming Club, Patron of the Newton Cricket Club, Patron of the Kadina Indoor Bowls Association and Patron of the Kadina Town Band. Sydney was active in the Kadina RSL and the Methodist Church, Hon Surgeon of the YP Trotting Association and Chairman of the Kadina High School Council. One of the houses at Kadina high School was named Holder House.

## **World War II**

Sydney enlisted on 3 September 1939 and was appointed at the rank of Major in August 1942. His World War II service was all within Australia, mainly in South Australia and the Northern Territory. He was discharged on 16<sup>th</sup> July 1946.

The WWII period was a tragic time for Sydney and his family. In October 1942, his wife Dorothy died after a short illness. Sydney was serving in the north at that time. Then in December 1944 his only son, Sydney John Holder, was killed in a flying accident in the UK while a member of the RAAF.

## **Post WWII**

After WWII Sydney moved to Millswood and took up a position as Medical Officer for the Repatriation Department. Sydney died on the 10<sup>th</sup> of February 1953, aged 63 leaving daughters, Charlotte and Alison. He is buried at Centennial Park Cemetery, Adelaide.

***Profile Compiled by: Beth Filmer AUFC/AUCC WW1 Memorial Committee***

## **Sources and Acknowledgements:**

The AIF Project <https://www.aif.adfa.edu.au/>

The National Archives of Australia <http://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/>

The Australian War Memorial <https://www.awm.gov.au/>

The Adelaide University <http://www.adelaide.edu.au/records/archives/>

The Adelaide University Sports Association <https://www.theblacks.com.au/Common/>

The National Library of Australia <http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/>

(Trove Newspaper articles tagged - Sydney Ernest Holder)

Grave Secrets <http://www.gravesecrets.net/wwi-pictorial-honour-rolls.html>

1911 Lacrosse Intersociety Team <http://hdl.handle.net/2440/61153>

1912 Lacrosse Intersociety Team <http://hdl.handle.net/2440/58448>

1913 Lacrosse Intersociety Team <http://hdl.handle.net/2440/58449>

1912 Intersociety Tennis <http://hdl.handle.net/2440/56436>

1913 Intersociety Tennis <http://hdl.handle.net/2440/56435>