

**St. Nicholas & St. Peter Churchyard,
Curdworth, Warwickshire**

War Grave



Lest We Forget

World War 1



LIEUTENANT

S. WOODROW

AUSTRALIAN FLYING CORPS

23RD SEPTEMBER, 1916 Age 30

He Died As He Lived

Doing His Duty

Sydney WOODROW

Sydney Woodrow was born at Buangor, Victoria on 4th March, 1886 to parents Thomas Joseph & Sarah Emily Woodrow (nee Aitchison).

Thomas Joseph Woodrow, father of Sydney Woodrow, died in Victoria in 1900.

Sydney Woodrow married Elle Gertrude Dean in 1913 in the district of Parramatta, Sydney, NSW.

Sydney Woodrow qualified for his first appointment as 2nd Lieutenant in October, 1913.

The 1913 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Macquarie, subdivision of Dubbo, NSW listed Sydney Woodrow, Instructor & his wife Ella Gertrude Woodrow, domestic duties - both from Bourke Street.

2nd Lieutenant Sydney Woodrow was aged 30 years, married & a Military Staff Officer (A. & I.S.) from The Anchorage, 9 Sutherland Street, Neutral Bay, Sydney, NSW when signed up for Active Service abroad with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Methodist & his next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs E. G. Woodrow, of The Anchorage, 9 Sutherland Street, Neutral Bay, Sydney, NSW.

2nd Lieutenant Sydney Woodrow was appointed Lieutenant (Melbourne) No. 1 Squadron, A.F.C. (Australian Flying Corps), A.I.F. (Australian Imperial Force) on 5th January, 1916. He reported for duty & was taken on strength on 14th January, 1916.

Lieutenant Sydney Woodrow embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Orsova* (A 67) on 16th March, 1916 with the No. 1 Squadron, Australian Flying Corps.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P80751

(Photo 16 March, 1916)

Group portrait of 23 officers of No 1 Squadron Australian Flying Corps (1 AFC) waiting to embark on troopship A67 *Orsova*. Believed to be amongst this group, but most positions unknown are: Captain (Capt) William Hopton

Anderson; Lieutenant (Lt) Andrew Delfosse Badgery; Capt David Valentine Jardine Blake; Lt Charles James Brookes; Major (Maj) Alexander Arthur Johnstone Broun; Lt Rolf Sanger Brown; Lt Arthur Edward Geere; Lt William Ewart Hart; Lt Allan Murray Jones; Lt Charles Ambrose Kelly; Maj Henry Dundas Keith Macartney; Lt Alexander Leighton Macnaughton; Lt David Thomas William Manwell; Lt Frank Hubert McNamara; Lt Philip Horatio Newland; Lt Colonel Edgar Hercules Reynolds; Lt Eric Glendower Roberts; Lt Ross Roderick; Capt William Sheldon; Lt John Linton Treloar (back row second from right); Lt Lawrence James Wackett; Captain Richard Williams (front row, fourth from left); Lt Sydney Woodrow. One of these people named is not present.

Lieutenant Sydney Woodrow proceeded to Ferry Post on 21st May, 1916 & returned on 22nd May, 1916. He proceeded to Alexandria by rail & embarked from Alexandria on 28th May, 1916 per H.T. *Briton* for England for Instruction in Aviation.

Newspaper Birth Notice – *The Daily Telegraph*, Sydney, NSW – 12 July, 1916:

BIRTHS

WOODROW – July 6th, at her residence, The Anchorage, 9 Sutherland Street, Neutral Bay, the wife of Lieut. Sydney Woodrow, Australian Flying Corps, England (on active service) – a son (stillborn).

Lieutenant Sydney Woodrow wrote to the Staff Paymaster from Montrose, Scotland regarding his pay & a special allowance of £10 to be paid pending approval. It was received at Administrative Headquarters on 2nd August, 1916.

Lieutenant Sydney Woodrow sent a Telegram on 11th August, 1916 from Montrose, Scotland to Paymaster, Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. regarding his pay.

A letter from Acting Accountant to Lieut. R. G. Healey, Administrative Headquarters, London, on 22nd August, 1916 reads: "*In reply to your letter of the 11th instant... I desire to state that approval was given by the High Commissioner to allow Officers of the Australian Flying Corps, who arrived in Great Britain during the months of April and May last, to overdraw their pay account to the extent of £10.0s.0d. each. This special action was taken in view of the fact that the Unit in question was withdrawn from Egypt and brought to England where the Officers were called upon to provide themselves with additional thick clothing. The questions as to who is to bear the cost of this clothing was to have been raised with the Officers in question, and the overdrawal was to be continued until settlement of such question.*"

Lieutenant Sydney Woodrow was appointed Flying Officer on 23rd August, 1916 – A.I.F. Orders List 100.

Newspaper item – *The Scotsman*, Edinburgh, Scotland – 22 September, 1916:

MILITARY APPOINTMENTS

ROYAL FLYING CORPS. MILITARY WING

Flying Officers – Lt S. Woodrow, Australian F.C.

Lieutenant Sydney Woodrow was attached to No. 54 Squadron at Castle Bromwich, West Midlands, England.

On 23rd September, 1916 Lieutenant Sydney Woodrow was flying a Sopwith 1 ½ Strutter Serial No. 7772 from No. 54 Squadron Castle Bromwich Aerodrome when his plane nosedived & crashed near Wishaw, North Warwickshire, England.

Lieutenant Sydney Woodrow died on 23rd September, 1916 at Curdworth, England in an aeroplane accident while flying from Castle Bromwich Aerodrome, England.

A death for Sydney Woodrow, aged 35, was registered in the September quarter, 1916 in the district of Tamworth, Staffordshire, England.

A Court of Enquiry was held at Castle Bromwich Aerodrome, near Birmingham on 23rd September, 1916 for the purpose of ascertaining and reporting upon the fatal accident to Lieutenant S. Woodrow, Australian Flying Corps, at Curdworth, on 23rd September, 1916.

FIRST WITNESS:

Capt. Lionel MOSS, A.S.C. & R.F.C., O/C "A" Flight, No. 54 Squadron, R.F.C., states:-

Having had a new Engine fitted into Sopwith 2 Seater No.7772 I took the machine up for 10 Mins to test it as is customary. The Engine was running well and giving its maximum power. The machine itself was in good flying trim.

The deceased officer, Lieut. S. Woodrow, was the next person to fly the machine and he ascended shortly after my return. The machine was so badly smashed it was impossible to examine same minutely for necessary details. It was established however that prior to the accident, the adjustable incidence on the tail plane was so set that the machine flew level.

signed Lionel Moss,
Captain A.S.C.,
and R.F.C.

SECOND WITNESS:

No.9055, Cpl PURCHASE, Rigger, No.54 Squadron, R.F.C. states:-

I saw Sopwith 2 Seater No.7772 Pilot Lieut S. WOODROW leave the Aerodrome and the machine climbed straight away to about 7000 feet. The machine and engine appeared to be running well. I last saw him making towards Curdworth and he evidently disappeared into the clouds.

I examined the rigging of the machine early the same morning and it was correct in every detail.

signed S. J. Purchase
Corporal R.F.C.

THIRD WITNESS:

No.26817 1/AM P.P.Karck, Fitter, No.54 Squadron, R.F.C. states:-

I fitted a new Engine into Sopwith 2 Seater No.7772 and on testing same found it to be in perfect running order. I saw Lieut. S. Woodrow leave the Aerodrome on this machine and he was about 2000 feet over the Aerodrome when I last saw him.

signed P.P.Karck,
1/AM R.F.C.

FOURTH WITNESS:
(Documentary)

Police Constable 126, Harry BAMBROOK, Coleshill Sub-Division, furnishes documentary evidence as follows:-

I respectfully beg to report for your information, that, at about 12 noon on September 23rd, I was in the vicinity of Wiggins Hill, Sutton Coldfield, when I saw an Aeroplane come from the clouds and come straight down to earth (nose dive). Immediately after I heard an explosion. I went to the spot and there saw the machine which was a complete wreck, and the body of a man crushed beneath it. He was dead.

I further beg to state that when the machine was descending to earth the engine was running and in my opinion, was making no unusual noise. The machine seemed intact during its fall, there were no loose parts hanging about and nothing broke away from the machine.

The COURT, having considered the evidence are of the opinion that no one was to blame for t e fatal accident in question.

(signed) W.A.Anderson, Captain A.F.C.
President.

signed J.A.Chown, 2/Lieut.R.F.C.
S.R., Member.

signed E.L.French, 2/Lieut. R.I.R.,
& R.F.C.,
Member.

I concur.

I examined the machine personally before anything was touched and so far as could be seen there was no reason to suspect any mechanical failure.

signed C.S.N.Newall, Lt-Col.
25th Wing, R.F.C.

Castle Bromwich
26/9/16.

Newspaper item – *Birmingham Mail*, England – 25 September, 1916:

FLYING FATALITIES

AUSTRALIAN OFFICER KILLED NEAR BIRMINGHAM

SUPPOSED FAINTING FIT

Lieutenant Sidney Woodrow (35), an Australian flying officer, was killed on Saturday afternoon near Birmingham. He went up in a biplane by himself, and when about 8,000 feet above the ground he lost control of his machine. He was unable to right it, and it fell to the ground, the aviator being killed immediately.

At the inquest to-day, Captain J. J. Robb, R.A.M.C., described the state of the body, which was exceedingly mutilated, the head being severely crushed.

Captain Anderson, an Australian flying officer, said Lieutenant Woodrow was married and belong to Sydney, where his wife now resides. He came to England last March, and started flying about the middle of July. He had been in possession of his "wings" about a month. Lieutenant Woodrow had made many ascents, and was, in witness's opinion, a perfectly competent man.

Captain L. Moss said he saw Lieutenant Woodrow in the air on Saturday afternoon. The machine had been used by witness a quarter of an hour before Lieutenant Woodrow, and he (witness) found no difficulty either in ascending or descending. It was practically a new machine, and everything was in order. In witness's opinion the accident was due to some physical condition arising in connection with the man rather than from any mechanical trouble.

Police-constable Barnbrook said he was in his garden when he saw the machine make a nose dive from the clouds. Immediately after it reached the ground there was an explosion. There was no unusual noise, and nothing broke from the machine as it fell.

The Coroner: That confirms my opinion that something went wrong with the man.

Summing up, the Coroner expressed the view that Lieutenant Woodrow must have had a fainting fit or there must have been some irregularity of the heat's action which caused him to fall forward, the machine beyond his control. He was flying from 5,000 to 7,000 feet high, and the higher he was the better he would be able to counteract any engine difficulties.

The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental death" and found that the accident was not due to any mechanical defect.

Lieutenant Sydney Woodrow was buried St. Nicholas & St. Peter Churchyard, Curdworth, Warwickshire, England and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

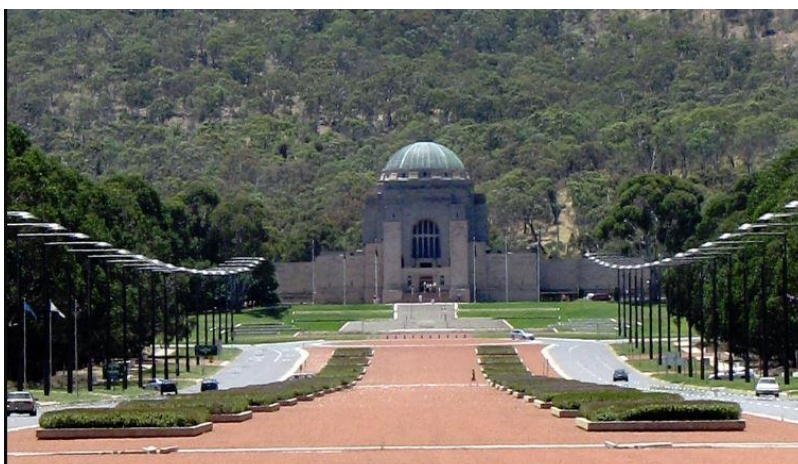
Lieutenant Sydney Woodrow was entitled to British War Medal only as he had not entered a Theatre of War. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Lieutenant Woodrow's widow - Mrs E. G. Woodrow, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent January, 1922 & Plaque sent December, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Lieutenant Sydney Woodrow, aged 30, of Australian Flying Corps. He was the son of Thomas and Emily Woodrow; husband of Ella Gertrude Woodrow, of 9 Sutherland St., Neutral Bay, New South Wales.

Lieutenant S. Woodrow is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 187.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia



S. Woodrow is remembered on the Armidale Methodist Church World War 1 Honour Roll, located at 114 Rusden Street, Armidale, NSW.



Armidale Methodist Church World War 1 Honour Roll (Photo from NSW War Memorial Register – Graham Wilson)

Lieutenant Sydney Woodrow is remembered with a wooden aeroplane Memorial located in St. Nicholas & St. Peter ad Vincula Church, Glebe Fields, Curdworth, North Warwickshire, England.



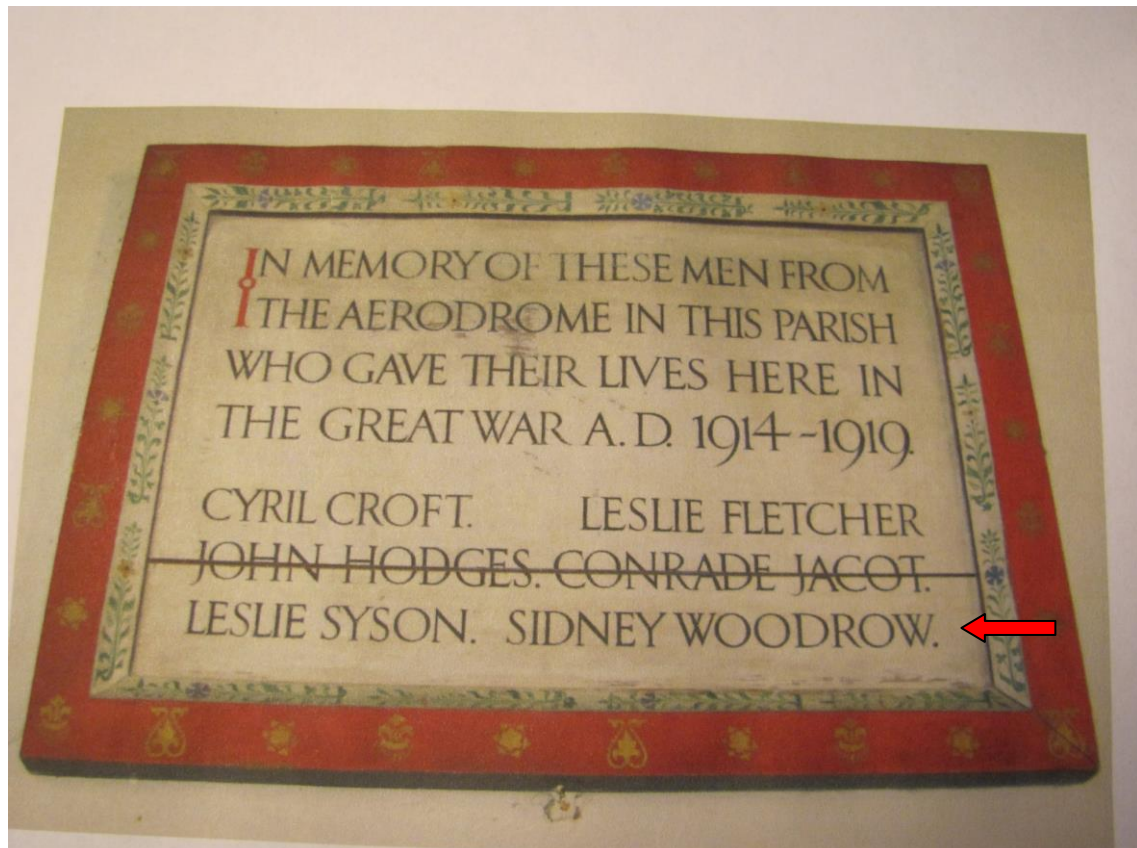
*To Memory of
Lt. Sidney Woodrow
Australian Flying Corps
who died in an
Aeroplane Accident
Sep 23 1916*



Wooden aeroplane Memorial to Lieutenant Sydney Woodrow

(Photos from NNWFHS)

Sidney Woodrow is remembered on the Curdworth Aerodrome World War 1 Memorial, located in St. Nicholas & St. Peter ad Vincula Church, Glebe Fields, Curdworth, North Warwickshire, England.



Curdworth Aerodrome World War 1 Memorial *(Photo from War Memorials Online – Tony Woolley)*

(56 pages of Lieutenant Sydney Woodrow's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll) & National Archives



Lieutenant S. Woodrow (c 9 March, 1916)

Portrait of Lieutenant (Lt) S Woodrow, Australian Flying Corps. An officer with the Permanent Forces prior to enlistment, Lt Sydney Woodrow embarked with Headquarters, No. 1 Squadron from Melbourne aboard HMAT Orsova (A67) on 16 March 1916. Lt Woodrow died of accidental injuries at Curdworth, England, on 23 September 1916. This is one of a series of photographs taken by the Darge Photographic Company which had a concession to take photographs at the Broadmeadows and Seymour army camps during the First World War. In the 1930s, the Australian War Memorial purchased the original glass negatives from Algernon Darge, along with the photographers' notebooks. The notebooks contain brief details, usually a surname or unit name, for each negative. The names are transcribed as they appear in the notebooks.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

DAAV00030Z

Lieutenant S. Woodrow (*c 9 March, 1916*)



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

DAVX047

Lieutenant S. Woodrow

Outdoor portrait of Lieutenant Sydney Woodrow, pilot, Australian Flying Corps



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P05301.150

Lieutenant S. Woodrow

Outdoor portrait of Lieutenant Sydney Woodrow, No 1 Squadron, Australian Flying Corps, of Neutral Bay NSW. Son of Thomas and Emily Woodrow; husband of Ella Gertrude Woodrow. A permanent army officer prior to enlisting, he embarked from Melbourne aboard HMAT Orsova (A67) on 16 March 1916. He was killed in an accident on 23 September 1916 in England, aged 30. He is buried in Curdworth (St Peter) Churchyard, Warwickshire, England.



Newspaper Notices

MEN WHO FELL

KILLED

Lieutenant WOODROW – News has been received in Mudgee that Lieutenant Sydney Woodrow met with a fatal aeroplane accident in England. Deceased was formerly staff-sergeant major here, and was in charge of the Senior Cadets, Infantry and Australian Horse. He married a local girl (Miss Ella Deane). He was looked upon with great esteem by Mudgee people, and his death came as a shock.

(The Daily Telegraph, Sydney, NSW, Australia – 27 September, 1916)

DEATHS

WOODROW – In England, by aeroplane accident, Lieutenant Sydney Woodrow, aged 30 years (Special private cable).

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW, Australia – 27 September, 1916) &

(The Daily Telegraph, Sydney, NSW, Australia – 27 September, 1916)

SYDNEY AIRMAN'S DEATH

FIT IN MIDAIR

London, Tuesday

An inquest was held at Birmingham in connection with the death of Lieut. Sidney Woodrow, an airman, of Sydney.

Woodrow started flying in July, and soon became thoroughly competent. He was flying in a new bi-plane, which nosed from the clouds to earth.

The Coroner expressed the opinion that Woodrow had a fainting fit and lost control of his machine.

A verdict of accidental death was recorded.

The machine was inspected after the tragedy and was found to be in perfect order.

(The Bendigo Independent, Victoria, Australia – 27 September, 1916)

Death of Lieutenant Woodrow

IN AN AEROPLANE ACCIDENT

News was received in Mudgee this week of the death of Lieutenant Sydney Woodrow. No particulars of the unfortunate gentleman's death beyond that it took place in connection with an accident to an aeroplane presumably, in England, in which he was making an ascent.

The deceased gentleman was at one time Staff-Sergeant-Major of the Infantry, Light Horse and Senior Cadets at Mudgee, where he was very greatly esteemed. At the outbreak of the war he volunteered for active service and joined the air service, and in due course went to England.

Lieutenant Woodrow whilst in Mudgee married Miss Ella Deane, second daughter of Mr. E. Deane, formerly proprietor of Deane's Coach Factory Mudgee now living in retirement in Sydney. Mrs Woodrow remained in Australia when her husband went to England and is now living in Sydney.

Very great sympathy will be felt for the bereaved wife, and in this sympathy the "Guardian" sincerely asserts itself.

(Mudgee Guardian and North-Western Representative, NSW – 28 September, 1916)



**FLIGHT-LIEUT. SYDNEY
WOODROW,**
of Armidale,
Killed in England in Aeroplane Accident.

(The Daily Telegraph, Sydney, NSW, Australia – 3 November, 1916)

ROLL OF HONOUR

WOODROW – On September 23rd, 1916, at Birmingham, England, Flight-Lieutenant Sydney Woodrow, beloved husband of Ella Gertrude Woodrow, of 9 Sutherland Street, Neutral Bay.

(The Daily Telegraph, Sydney, NSW – 24 September, 1918)

Sydney Woodrow is remembered on a headstone in Rookwood Cemetery, Sydney, NSW – Section 4, Row 33, Plot number 2486.



(Photo courtesy of Gary Heap)

In Loving Memory of
SYDNEY WOODROW
Flight Lieutenant
Killed In England Sept 23rd 1916
Aged 30 Years
Also BABY WOODROW
Died July 6th 1916



Rookwood Cemetery (Photo by Rebecca McIntosh – Find a Grave)



Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstones

The Defence Department, in 1920/21, contacted the next of kin of the deceased World War 1 soldiers to see if they wanted to include a personal inscription on the permanent headstone. Space was reserved for 66 letters only (with the space between any two words to be counted as an additional letter) & the rate per letter was around 3 ½ d (subject to fluctuation).

The expense in connection for the erection of permanent headstones over the graves of fallen soldiers was borne by the Australian Government.

(Information obtained from letters sent to next of kin in 1921)

Lieutenant S. Woodrow does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

He Died As He Lived Doing His Duty

St. Nicholas & St. Peter Churchyard, Curdworth, Warwickshire, England.

St. Nicholas & St. Peter Churchyard, Curdworth contains 9 Commonwealth War Graves – 6 from World War 1 & 3 from World War 2.



St. Nicholas & St. Peter Churchyard, Curdworth (photo by Beckajit - Find a Grave)

Photo of Lieutenant S. Woodrow's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in St. Nicholas & St. Peter Churchyard, Curdworth, Warwickshire, England.



(Photo by John – Find a Grave)





St. Nicholas & St. Peter Churchyard, Curdworth *(photo by John – Find a Grave)*