

Private Sydney Kidd

Regimental number: 88550

46th Battalion, Machine Gun Corps

born: about 1888 - died: 20 July 1918

Private Sydney Kidd, born about 1888,¹ was the son of James and Tamar Kidd of Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.² His father, James, was born about 1854 in Newborough, Staffordshire, the son of John and Mary Kidd.³ His mother, the former Tamar Donnison, was born in 1857 in King's Lynn, Norfolk,⁴ the daughter of William and Mary Ann Donnison of Kingston upon Hull, Yorkshire.⁵ James and Tamar married in late 1877 near Birmingham, Warwickshire.

James and Tamar had eight children – all of whom survived to 1911.⁶ Sydney had four brothers – Alfred (born in about 1877),⁷ William (born in about 1882),⁸ George (born in about 1886),⁹ and James (born in about 1893)¹⁰ – and three sisters – Mary (born in about 1883),¹¹ Nellie (born in about 1887)¹² and Annie (born in about 1895).¹³

When Sydney's father was young, he was a general labourer.¹⁴ He was then a groom¹⁵ and then for three decades he was a domestic gardener.¹⁶ In 1911, the family, with five children, was living at 30 Marle Hill Road, St Paul's in Cheltenham.¹⁷ Sydney, who was living at home, was working as a domestic gardener. Unfortunately, his mother died in the spring or early summer of 1911.¹⁸

In the spring of 1917, Sydney married Winnifred Howell in Cheltenham.¹⁹ Winnifred was the daughter of William and Louisa Howell. William was a publican who, in 1911, was living at 65 High Street, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire and his daughter, Winnifred, was an assistant in a draper's shop.²⁰ Sydney and Winnifred likely did not have any children.



Sydney Kidd in Pernes cemetery
(Source: Author, July 2015)

Sydney enlisted in the army in Birmingham and served initially with the Royal Army Service Corps.²¹ However, when he died, he was with the 46th Battalion of the Machine Gun Corps.

On 20 July 1918, the 46th Battalion was stationed in the Gorre and Essars sections, near Bethune in northern France. It fired 2,350 rounds at the enemy artillery.²² Unfortunately one Other Rank was killed in action – it may have been Sydney. Sydney was admitted to the 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station with gunshot wounds that penetrated his back and abdomen and gunshot wounds to his left leg. Since he is recorded as having died the same day, he may have been dead when he was admitted. Sydney, a member of the Church of England, was buried in Pernes British Military Cemetery (Plot 5, Row F, Grave 14) the next day, with the chaplain J. K. Tibbits presiding. The journal entry for Sydney's passage at the 1st CCCS was made by the chaplain R. L. Brydges because, on the day Sydney was admitted, the Chaplain and Honorary Captain Tibbits left the 1st CCCS on leave.²³

The day Sydney was admitted to the 1st CCCS, there were 148 admissions.²⁴ Sydney was one of 39 to die at that CCCS in July. Most of the over 1,000 First World War soldiers buried in the Pernes British Military Cemetery died at one of the nearby clearing stations.²⁵ This cemetery was only set up in April 1918 when the 1st and 4th Canadian Casualty Clearing Stations came to Pernes, driven back by the German advance.

One of the chaplains notified his wife, who was then living either with her parents at 65 High Street in Cheltenham, or at 8 Fairfield Walk, Leckhampton near Cheltenham. His wife received the monies owing to him by the army after his death. At the time Sydney's father was probably living at Hanover Inn on Hanover Street, St. Paul's in Cheltenham.

Sydney was awarded the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918) and the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre).²⁶

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¹ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 9 June 2015), entry for Sydney Kidd, Registration district: Cheltenham, Inferred County: Gloucestershire, Volume: 6a, Page: 400

² "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 26 May 2015), entry for Sydney Kidd, Registration district: Cheltenham, Registration District Number: 333, Sub-registration district: Cheltenham, ED, institution, or vessel: 9, Piece: 15544

³ "1861 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 9 June 2015), entry for Jamed Kidd, Registration district: Uttoxeter, Sub-registration district: Abbots Bromley, ED, institution, or vessel: 6c, Household schedule number: 47, Piece: 1956, Folio: 36, Page Number: 9

⁴ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 26 May 2015), entry for Tamar Donnison, Registration district: King's Lynn, Inferred County: Norfolk, Volume: 4b, Page: 329

⁵ "1851 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 9 June 2015), entry for Mary Ann Dennison, Registration district: Sculcoates, Sub-registration district: Sutton, ED, institution, or vessel: 21f, Household schedule number: 95, Piece: 2360, Folio: 124, Page Number: 23

⁶ "1911 England Census," entry for Sydney Kidd

⁷ "1891 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 26 May 2015), entry for Sydney Kidd, Registration district: Cheltenham, ED, institution, or vessel: 18, Piece: 2045, Folio: 13, Page Number: 19

⁸ "England, Select Births and Christenings, 1538-1975," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 9 June 2015), entry for William Kidd, FHL Film Number: 1752216, Reference ID: item 7 p 11

⁹ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 9 June 2015), entry for George Kidd, Registration district: Cheltenham, Inferred County: Gloucestershire, Volume: 6a, Page: 437

¹⁰ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 9 June 2015), entry for James Kidd, Registration district: Cheltenham, Inferred County: Gloucestershire, Volume: 6a, Page: 410

¹¹ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 9 June 2015), entry for Mary Kidd, Registration district: Lichfield, Inferred County: Staffordshire, Volume: 6b, Page: 468

¹² "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 9 June 2015), entry for Nellie Kidd, Registration district: Cheltenham, Inferred County: Gloucestershire, Volume: 6a, Page: 408

¹³ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 9 June 2015), entry for Annie Elizabeth Kidd, Registration district: Cheltenham, Inferred County: Gloucestershire, Volume: 6a, Page: 427

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- ¹⁴ "1871 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 26 May 2015), entry for James Kidd, Registration district: Derby, Sub-registration district: St Alkmund, ED, institution, or vessel: 19, Household schedule number: 5, Piece: 3562, Folio: 82, Page Number: 2
- ¹⁵ "1871 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 26 May 2015), entry for Tamar Kidd, Registration district: Burton Upon Trent, Sub-registration district: Gresley, ED, institution, or vessel: 13, Piece: 2758, Folio: 120, Page Number: 9
- ¹⁶ "1891 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 26 May 2015), entry for Sydney Kidd, Registration district: Cheltenham, ED, institution, or vessel: 18, Piece: 2045, Folio: 13, Page Number: 19; "1901 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 26 May 2015), entry for Sydney Kidd, Registration district: Cheltenham, Sub-registration district: Cheltenham, ED, institution, or vessel: 15, Piece: 2461, Folio: 145, Page Number: 31, Household schedule number: 162; "1911 England Census," entry for Sydney Kidd
- ¹⁷ "1911 England Census," entry for Sydney Kidd
- ¹⁸ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Death Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 26 May 2015), entry for Tamar Kidd, Registration district: Cheltenham, Inferred County: Gloucestershire, Volume: 6a, Page: 272
- ¹⁹ "England & Wales marriages 1837-2008," *findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 26 May 2015), entry for Sydney Kidd, District: Cheltenham, County: Gloucestershire, Volume: 6A, Page: 862
- ²⁰ "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 26 May 2015), entry for Winnifred Howell, Registration district: Cheltenham, Registration District Number: 333, Sub-registration district: Cheltenham, ED, institution, or vessel: 17, Household schedule number: 457, Piece: 15552
- ²¹ "Soldiers died in the Great War 1914-1919," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 26 May 2015), entry for Sydney Kidd
- ²² "UK, WWI War Diaries (France, Belgium and Germany), 1914-1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 26 May 2015), Regiment or Unit: Machine Gun Corps, Sub Unit: 46 Battalion Machine Gun Corps, Division: 46th Division, Diary Dates: 1918 Mar - 1919 May, Piece Description: Piece 2679/2: 46 Battalion Machine Gun Corps (1918 Mar - 1919 May), Piece Number: 2679
- ²³ "War Diaries of the First World War: 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station 1914/08/13-1919/03/31," *Library and Archives Canada* (http://data4.collectionscanada.gc.ca/netacgi/nph-brs?s1=casualty+clearing&s13=&s12=&l=20&s9=RG9&s7=9-52&Sect1=IMAGE&Sect2=THESOFF&Sect4=AND&Sect5=WARDPEN&Sect6=HITOFF&d=FIN&p=1&u=http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/archivianet/02015202_e.html&r=1&f=G)
- ²⁴ Ibid.
- ²⁵ "Pernes British Military Cemetery" *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (<http://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/11600/PERNES%20BRITISH%20CEMETERY>: accessed 13 January 2015)
- ²⁶ "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914-1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 26 May 2015), entry for Sydney Kidd