

Private 030208

## **Sydney Brown**

190th Depot Army Ordnance Corps  
1882 - 1918



### **Life in the Community**

Sydney Brown was born in Newport 1882.

At the time of the Census in April 1901, Sydney was living at 123 Locke Street, Newport, with his widowed sister Matilda and her two children, Edith and Arthur. He was aged 19 and his occupation at that time was a Publican's Cellar man.

Sydney married Martha Hockey in 1907 at Newport.

At the time of the Census in April 1911, Sydney was 30 years of age and employed as a Baker's Carter with his father-in-law's bakery business. He lived with his in-laws, his wife and his one year old son, Sydney, in Langstone House, Langstone.

His father-in-law Frederick Hockey had run a successful bakers business in Newport for more than 30 years. Frederick's father Parmenas Hockey was a Baker, Grocer and Beer House keeper in Dolphin Street Newport and when he died in 1867 he left an estate in the category of "under £300" that would have the equivalent purchasing power of £23,000 in 2017.

### **Military Service**

From his service number of 030208 it appears that Sydney was conscripted into the Army Ordnance Corps in 1916. He served at the 190th Depot at Dieppe and because of his past knowledge and experience could have served as a baker as the Army 9th Field Bakery was located at that depot.

The First World War saw the officers and men of the Corps heavily engaged, especially in the artillery-dominated theatre of the Western Front. The number of ordnance personnel grew enormously, as did the storage and logistics infrastructure needed to supply the guns. The Corps expanded from 30 officers and 1,360 men in 1914 to 800 officers and 15,000 men in 1918. Ordnance at its disposal was less than 1,000 tons in 1914, but in France alone totalled 336,450 tons at the war's end - delivering 9000 tons of shot and shell to the Army every day.

Apart from ammunition, the Army Ordnance Corps was also responsible for providing the fighting man with virtually all he needed in the trenches apart from food including sandbags, barbed wire, gas masks and even the gum boots to withstand the Flanders mud. These were the sinews of war without which the conflict could not have been fought. The ordnance units created a well-developed system of stores dumps and repair facilities along extended lines-of-communication.

In 1918, their vital role was recognised the Corps having acquitted itself with distinction during the First World War, King George V granted the prefix "Royal".

Eight Army Ordnance Corps companies had left for France in August 1914 establishing Base Depots at the Channel Ports in France and at other places on the lines of communication. They had a variety of purposes as a transport hub where goods arrived in bulk by ship and were broken down into wagon-loads and sent on by rail. The places selected for Base Depots became centres of very considerable industry with workshops, stores, barracks, camps, hospitals, etc.

Dieppe was used by Commonwealth forces as a base from December 1914 onwards, particularly for supplies of small arms ammunition, forage and flour. From January 1915 to May 1919, "A" Section of No.5 Stationary Hospital was stationed in the town. The bases grew over time into large camps with a maximum holding capability of 22 days reserve of equipment and ammunition. Dieppe was used by Commonwealth forces as a minor base from December 1914 onwards, particularly for supplies of small arms ammunition, forage and flour. From January 1915 to May 1919, "A" Section of No.5 Stationary Hospital was stationed in the town.



Unshipping a locomotive at Le Havre, 23 May 1917.(Imperial War Museum image Q29483.)



All armies depend on the maintenance of supply through their Lines of Communication to be able to sustain a fighting ability. For the British Army of 1914-1918, this meant a reliance upon the railway. Virtually all goods were moved from the Channel Ports to the Railheads by standard gauge rail. The key lines that were operating in April 1916 are shown in this diagram.

Name	Corps	Rank	Regt. No.
BROWN	A.C.F.	Pvt	030208
Remarks			
Died			
Cause of Death			
Date of entry theatre			
Theatre of War first served in			
Date of entry theatre			

Private 030208 Sydney Brown died of pneumonia on 15th November 1918, four days after the Armistice was signed and the war had ended. He is buried at Janval Cemetery Dieppe.

### Medal Entitlement

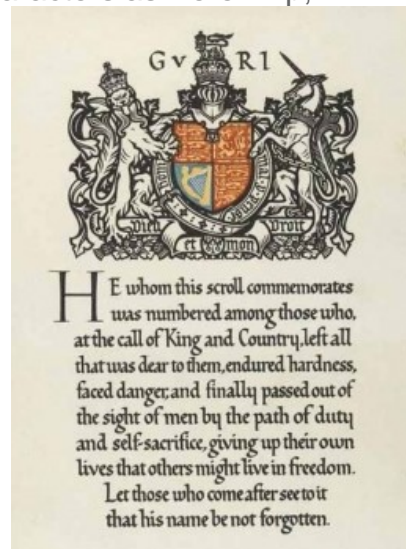


Private 030208 Sydney Brown's medal entitlement was the British War Medal & the Victory Medal. This pair of medals were generally awarded to servicemen who joined the war after 1915 and were colloquially known as "Mutt and Jeff". Mutt and Jeff were comic strip characters as were "Pip, Squeak and Wilfred" the nicknames for medals for servicemen who joined the war

before 1916.

The medals were issued to the fallen serviceman or woman's legatees if a Will existed. If no Will existed, they were issued to the next-of-kin in the order of precedence laid down in Army Order 256 of 1917.

This Scroll accompanied the medals of servicemen and women who fell in the War and carried the full Name, Rank and Number beneath the last line of the script.

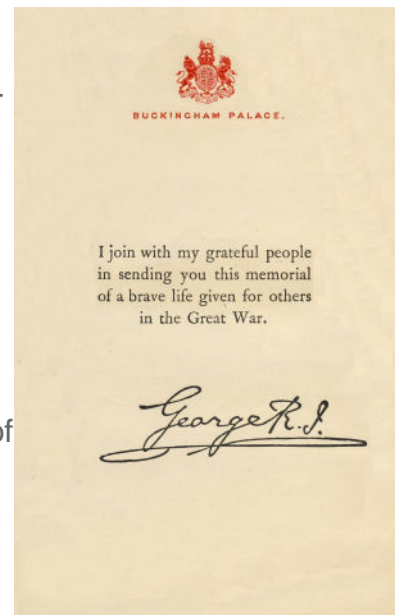


## Commemoration of the Fallen



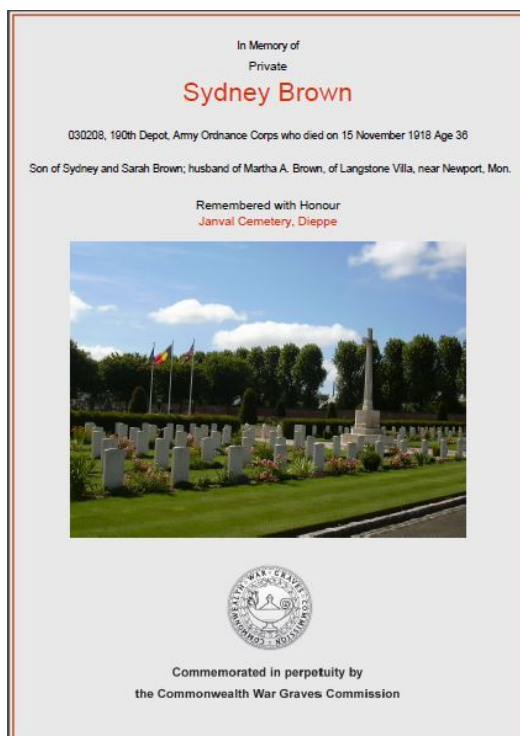
The Bronze Memorial Plaque was issued to the next of kin of servicemen or women who had fallen in the Great War. It just had the recipient's name cast in the box above the lion's head no rank was given as it was intended to show equality in their sacrifice. 1,355,000 plaques were issued, which used a total of

450 tonnes of bronze, 600 of these plaques were issued to women. Distribution started in November 1919 and they continued to be issued into the 1930s to commemorate people who died as a consequence of the war. The circular shape and coin-like appearance soon contributed to the nickname of this memorial plaque becoming widely known as the "Dead Man's Penny", the "Death Penny", "Death Plaque" or "Widow's Penny".



From January 1915 to May 1919, "A" Section of No.5 Stationary Hospital was stationed in the town. During this period, 219 Commonwealth burials were made in Janval Cemetery, a large civil burial ground. Section F of the cemetery also contains a small plot of 29 Second World War burials, mostly dating from the early months of occupation, before the evacuation of the British Expeditionary Force in May 1940.

Private 030208 Sydney Brown is buried at the Janval Cemetery at Dieppe.





**Brown.**—On Nov. 15, in France, Pte. S. Brown, dearly beloved son of Sydney Brown, of 5, Kirby-street. "So quick, so sudden was the call, His sudden death surprised us all. The shock was great—we'll not complain; But trust in Heaven to meet again. Deeply mourned by father, Till, and Nance."

**Brown.**—In loving remembrance of Syd., dearly beloved husband of M. Brown, Langstone, who died in France, Nov. 15, 1918. His duty nobly done.  
N

**Brown.**—In loving memory of my dear brother, Sydney, who died in France, November 15, 1918.  
How often when my heart is sad,  
I seem to hear him say:  
Don't grieve for me, dear sister,  
We'll meet again some day.  
—Ever remembered by his loving sister,  
Nancy, and brother-in-law, Bert.  
N

**Brown.**—In loving memory of my dear brother, Sydney Brown, who died in France, Nov. 15, 1918. Ever remembered by Kitty and Arthur.

The Newport cenotaph was unveiled by Lord Tredegar in June 1923, to commemorate the local people who died in active service in the First World War. It now also commemorates people who died in subsequent wars. There are no names on the memorial but Private 030208 Sydney Brown's name appears on the listing.