

Individual Report for Captain Sydney Reginald HOCKADAY

Name:	Captain Sydney Reginald HOCKADAY			Sex:	M
AKA:					
Birth Date:	25 Jun 1892	Place:	Woollahra, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia		
Chr. Date:		Place:			
Death Date:	2 Sep 1916	Place:	Ypres, , West-Vlaanderen, Belgium		
Burial Date:	2 Sep 1916	Place:	Poperinghe, , West-Vlaanderen, Belgium		
Cause of Death:	Wounds				



Events

- 1 Captain Sydney Reginald HOCKADAY is Colin Wilton-Davies' 1C1R
- 2 He was adopted in 1903 in Lydney, Bledisloe, Gloucestershire, England. Informally adopted by Frank Step Hockaday and Jane Wansbrough at Highbury, Lydney, Gloucestershire, after the deaths of his natural parents.
- 3 He was educated at University of Birmingham from 1911 to 1914 in Birmingham, , Warwickshire, England. Letter from the Assistant Registrar, Chancellor's Court, The University of Birmingham, PO Box 363, Birmingham B15 2TT. Telephone 021-472 1301, dated 11 February, 1985. To Mrs S Hockaday, 50 Summerfield Avenue, Wall Heath, Kingswinford, West Midlands.
Dear Mrs Hockaday, Thank you for your enquiry.
You are quite right: the University's War Memorial which takes the form of a number of large inscribed marble tablets round the wall of the Great Hall does include the name of Sydney Reginald Hockaday. It gives no further details, of course, save that he died in the First World War.
Our records show a little more about him. His home address was shown as Highbury Spinney, Glamorgan [? misreading of Highbury, Lydney, Glos?] and he came to us from Monmouth Grammar School. He was here from 1911-14 studying mining, geology, engineering, mathematics, physics and chemistry. Unfortunately he failed some examinations in his final year and left with no degree. The rest the War Memorial tells us. I should perhaps add that his father is shown as JG Hockaday.
You would be perfectly welcome to call in and have a look at the Memorial at almost any time: it forms our main entrance and is always open. I enclose a copy of a plan marked to show the location.
Yours sincerel, Pat Hodson.
- 4 He worked as a Soldier, 2nd Bn Monmouthshire Regiment from 1914 to 1916. Monmouthshire Regiment was created in 1908 on the formation of the Territorial Force from the three Volunteer Battalions of the South Wales Borderers based in the County. The 2nd, 3rd and 4th Volunteer Battalions SWB became 1st (Rifle), 2nd and 3rd Battalions MONS.
The 43rd Foot, a regular infantry regiment, raised in 1739, were given the county title of 'Monmouth' in 1780s and later added 'Light Infantry' to their title, but they amalgamated with 52nd Foot in 1882 to form 'The Oxfordshire Light Infantry' which are now part of the Royal Green Jackets. The 43rd Foot had no connection with Monmouthshire Regiment.
2nd Battalion resumed identity and rejoined 12th Brigade, 4th Division on 24 July 1915. Assigned to Lines of Communication 30 Jan 1916. Joined 29th Division as Pioneer Battalion 1 May 1916.
SRH joined for duty (with Capt A Middenmay) on 30 Dec 1915.

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5	Commission: 2nd Lieutenant 2nd Monmouthshires, 20 Aug 1914. 2nd Battalion the Monmouthshire Regiment The undermentioned to be Second Lieutenants : — Sidney Reginald Hockaday. Dated 20th August, 1914.
6	Military: Lt temp Capt, 1915. 2nd Lt. (temp. Capt.) S. R. Hockaday to be Lt. (temp. Capt.), with precedence as from 5th May 1915. 25th Sept. 1915.
7	He was ill with Wounds and Gas Effects on 2 May 1915 in Ypres, , West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Wounded and Gassed at the second battle of Ypres, May 2nd, 1915.
8	Commission: temporary Lieutenant 2nd Monmouthshires, 5 May 1915. The undermentioned Second Lieutenants to be temporary Lieutenants. Dated 25th September, 1915: — Sydney R. Hockaday. Richard B. Comely. War Diary 30 Dec 1915. Capt A Middeurar & Lieut SR Hockaday joined for duty.
9	Commission: temporary Captain 2nd Monmouthshires, 14 Jan 1916. Lieutenant to temporary Captain, Monmouthshire Regiment.
10	He was ill with Fatal Wounds on 30 Aug 1916 in Ypres, , West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.
11	Updated: ill.photos, data on 24 Mar 2004.
12	Updated: 1914comm, data on 16 Mar 2007.
13	Updated: 1915-16mil, data on 16 Mar 2007.
Father:	James Henry HOCKADAY (1861-1902)
Mother:	Susan HOLLAND (1854-1904)
Birth Notes:	
Registration No 1892/36346 (), reg dist Wollahra, reg number 39346	
Death Notes:	
<p>A map in the Hill 60 Museum near Ypres shows Piccadilly Trench as being South of Potijze, Near James Farm and Dilly Farm.</p> <p>Extract from War Diary. 31 Aug 1916. Enemy shelled PICCADILLY TRENCH whilst day party was working, and caused following casualties. Officers, Wounded 1. (CAPT. SR HOCKADAY) (dangerously). Wounded OR 2. Gas attack was carried out at 1.30 am 31/1st. Our working parties ceased work at midnight.</p> <p>Extract from letter from G.W.Greenland, 2nd Lt, 2nd Bn Mons, in France, dated 31 Aug 1916 (note saying should be 30 Aug)</p> <p>I was going to write and tell you about our Coy Commander Captain S.R. Hockaday - he comes from Lydney & is very well known to Mr Deakin. He took over "B" Coy down South when Comley was wounded, a jollier fellow we have never had. Young, witty, happy, perfect in dress, "Hock" as we called him was top-hole. The mess has been such a happy family after "Hock" joined us. This morning he was very badly wounded. Besides nightwork we always have a day party out & Hock & Lawlor had gone up to see the work this morning. A shell exploded just on the trench. Hock got two ghastly holes in the left shoulder, a Serjeant got it in the arm & a man got it in the thigh. I cycled down the shell-scarred road to the dressing station - a ruined chateau - this</p>	

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Death Notes: (cont.)

afternoon to see him. There he lay, white as death, & still on a stretcher, covered with blankets. His hair, always so immaculately parted, was ruffled & without the usual sheen. He was almost sleeping, but when I went he said in such a weak little voice "Good-bye, Greenland". Oh! since then I have felt so very fed up! He was wounded at 11-30 this morning, but owing to that part being under observation by the boche our ambulance will not take him from the dressing station until 10-30 tonight. The doctor says he will pull through with tremendous luck, but will probably lose his arm.

Medical Officer's letter from 1/2 Monmouths, BEF, Aug 31 1916..

Dear Hockaday,

I'm so sorry to tell you that Sydney was seriously wounded yesterday. The same horrid piece of the line. He had only just been talking to the GOC over a trench. HE shrapnel. It has damaged his shoulder and chest badly - but has not injured his lung I think. He could not be moved till 10.30 pm. He was wounded at about 11.30 am.

He was seen as soon as possible by 2 MDs who gave him morphia at once. I saw him as soon as possible afterwards & went with him down to the CCS. I have been with him all day today.

The padre asked me to write to you as I knew all about him.

I am so very sorry as I had begun to know him so well & we always went about together.

I shall miss him dreadfully- he was one of the best officers we had I know- & alas- one of the few originals who can never be replaced.

He was most extraordinarily brave and devoid of nerves. He won't be wanted any more for this war which is a blessing.

I will write again.

Letter dated 3 Sep 1916 from Chaplain. 10 Casualty Clearing Station BEF.

Dear Sir, I thought perhaps you might like to hear from me. I am the C of E Chaplain at the above CCS & I have been with your brother since he was admitted early Friday morning. I have not written before as Captain Sainsbury MO has been writing & has been perfectly splendid the whole time, practically never leaving your Brother.

He no doubt has told you he died yesterday, quite peacefully & quite happy & is buried in the Military Cemetery in the Poperinghe-Boeschefe Road Plot 9 B8 (No. of grave)

I need hardly add how much I liked him, he was a real brave unselfish English gentleman & died after having made his last Communion, at peace with both God & Man.

There never was a chance for him - humanly speaking, tho' while he lived there was just a slight hope. You have my deepest sympathy. Yrs sincerely, James R.Hale, Chaplain C of E.

His personal effects will be forwarded as soon as possible.

Extract from War Diary

2 Sep 1916. CAPT. SR HOCKADAY died from wounds at No 10 CCS POPERINGHE & was buried in the cemetery adjoining the No 10 CCS. The CO, MO, Adj, Transport Officer & Q/Master were present at the burial which took place at 4 pm.

Burial Notes:

in Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery [this was for those that died in military hospitals, and therefore contains graves of several nationalities including a few Germans], plot 9, row B, grave 8.

Inscription:-

Captain \ SR Hockaday\ Monmouthshire Regiment\ 2nd September 1916. Age 24\ His Home - Highbury Lydney \ Gloucestershire\

General:

His father drowned in 1902 whilst trying to save him and his brother Percy. His mother Susan, née HOLLAND, died in 1904.

Last Modified:

13 May 2008