

COLLECTION TITLE	Papers of Sydney Richard Murdoch
COLLECTION IDENTIFIER	MSS 345
INCLUSIVE DATE(S)	1915 to 1920
EXTENT	3 folders
CREATOR	Murdoch, Sydney Richard -- Archives.
RELATED ENTITIES	Murdoch, Sydney Richard -- Archives.
RELATED COLLECTIONS	Papers of Sydney Richard Murdoch
ACCESS POINTS	Soldiers Soldiers -- Australia -- Correspondence

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Sydney Richard Murdoch, DCM, was born at Windsor, New South Wales, the son of John and Mary Murdoch of Katoomba, New South Wales.

He embarked for Egypt on 9 November 1915 on HMAT A72*Beltana*. During the First World War he served as a Sergeant with the 30th Battalion Australian Infantry, A.I.F. in Egypt and France prior to receiving his commission to 2nd Lieutenant in 1918. In 1917 he was mentioned in despatches to Sir Douglas Haig, and in 1918 was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal.

Sydney Richard Murdoch was killed in action by shell fire in France on the 3rd September 1918, aged 21 years and 9 months and is buried in Péronne Communal Cemetery Extension, Péronne, France.

References:

National Archives of Australia, 2007

AWM145 Roll of Honour cards, 1914-1918, War, Army

The purple and gold : a history of the 30th Battalion compiled by H. Sloan (1938).

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection comprises letters written by Sydney Richard Murdoch to his sister Rita and brother-in-law Billy Carlisle from Europe during World War I. The letters document the experiences of a young Australian soldier from training in Egypt to active service in France and recreation leave in various locations.

The collection starts with his first letter written from the Red Sea while on board HMAT A72*Beltana* and caught the first mail to leave the ship since its departure from Sydney to his last letter from France dated 25/8/1918 describing active service, being shot through the back of his hand and his return to the field. Also included is a printed tribute card for 2nd Lieutenant S.R. (Syd) Murdoch, DCM, 30th Battalion A.I.F. from his parents and family; correspondence from Major J.M. Lean, Base Records Office, Victoria Barracks, Melbourne to J. Murdoch, Esq., "Arnleigh", Clissold St, Katoomba, N.S.W., together with a description of the locality and photograph of the temporary memorial of the late S.R. Murdoch.

ARRANGEMENT

The collection has been arranged in box then folder order.

ACCESS RESTRICTIONS

The collection is available for research.

SOURCE OF ACQUISITION

This collection was acquired from Professor Peter Dennis, February 1998.

EXISTENCE AND LOCATION OF ORIGINALS

Special Collections, UNSW Canberra

Collection Contents

Papers of Sydney Richard Murdoch (MSS 345)

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Box 1 (MSS 345.B1)

Folder 1-2 (MSS 345.B1.1-2)

after 1915 (Inclusive date(s))

Letters to Rita and Billy Carlisle from Syd Murdoch, 1915-21/5/1916

Folder 2 (MSS 345.B1.2)

after 1916 (Inclusive date(s))

Letters to Rita and Billy Carlisle from Syd Murdoch, 15/7/1916-18/11/1917

Folder 3 (MSS 345.B1.3)

1918 (Inclusive date(s))

Letters to Rita and Billy Carlisle from Syd Murdoch, 15/1/1918

One letter and one page fragment of a letter from David to Rita, 1917-1918

Tribute card for 2nd Lieutenant S.R. (Syd) Murdoch, DCM, 30th Battalion A.I.F., from his parents and family, September 1918

Letter from Major J.M. Lean, Base Records Office, Victoria Barracks, Melbourne to J. Murdoch, Esq., "Arnleigh", Clissold St, Katoomba, N.S.W., together with a description of the locality and photograph of the temporary memorial of the late S.R. Murdoch, 31 March 1920
