

Sydney was one of 8 children, three of whom died young – Sydney himself, his brother John (of diphtheria, aged 9) and his youngest brother Michael (of leukemia, aged 9). My mother Annette was the eldest daughter and closest in age to Sydney.

He was educated at Bulawayo Convent school and Milton High School and attended the 3rd Bulawayo Scout group. His best friend was Royce Love, and they both attended Milton High School and the Scout group together.

After leaving school he worked as a salesman at a general wholesaler, Kauffman Bros in Bulawayo and became engaged to Myra Pamensky, who lived in Port Elizabeth.

Sydney and Royce enlisted together on 8 November 1940 in Rhodesia, and by 29 November Sydney was at 25 Elementary Flying School at Belvedere, Salisbury in Rhodesia. He left South Africa on 28 May 1941 and travelled to England where he was sent to 25 Operational Training Unit at RAF Finningley where he commenced training in a Handley Page Hampden gaining his wings on 20 May 1941. He was still under training when he lost his life. He is commemorated at Bulawayo Cemetery, Zimbabwe and on the Roll of Honour at Milton High School.

Sydney's best friend Wilfred Royce Love flew with 266 (Rhodesia) Squadron. He was killed in action on 17 August 1944 almost three years after the death of his friend. He was on board Typhoon MN680 which departed ALG Sommervieu on a ground support mission to close Falaise Gap near Livarot. The aircraft was shot down by enemy aircraft (Fw190 of JG 2) and crashed at Ste-Marguerite-des-Loges, 9 km N of Vimoutiers.

<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2633620/WILFRED%20ROYCE%20LOVE/>

Royce Love's cousin, Owen Love, is buried in an adjoining grave. Owen was one of the Rhodesian Air Force Pilots assigned to the ferrying of new Spitfires from England to Rhodesia in 1951. By a cruel stroke of fate his aircraft developed some failure while flying over France and crashed. Owen is buried alongside Royce.

Grateful thanks to Sharon, Sydney's niece for providing the information on his life.