

## Sidney Holmes

Born: Oct 1, 1920  
England

Died: Aug 19, 1998  
Island

Period of Service: WW II

Sources: Cemetery 370 S,  
JG, JE, Liz Holmes, daughter

Prior to the outset of World War II, in 1939, Sidney Holmes became a member of the City of London Yeomanry, a service similar to the National Guard in the US. He was probably of lower rank at the time but at the end of 1939 he applied to Officer Candidate Training Unit and was accepted for training at Aldershot near London. He completed that training in mid 1940 and received his commission and was promoted to lieutenant, but remained attached to the City of London Yeomanry before being assigned to any active war area. At the end of 1940 the British Army initiated the Parachute Regiment and Sidney signed up for it. He successfully completed training and first saw action in North Africa in 1941 and 1942. Later, in 1943-1944 he saw action in Sicily, where he received a field promotion to captain, and later action on mainland Italy. In 1944 and until the war's end he remained in Italy and Greece with the Parachute Regiment 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion. At war's end he was promoted to Major and then spent time peace keeping in Palestine as the Allies were re-arranging Europe after WWII. When the British began downsizing the Army in 1946, Sidney left the Parachute Regiment and became part of the Criminal Investigation Division. He did investigations for the Army through Great Britain and spent some time in Ireland. He then left the army and became a Police Constable with the Haslemare, Surrey Constabulary. Later he went on to the Special Investigation Branch at Guildford, and re-enlisted with the army's military police taking training at Hendon Police College. He ended up in Northern Ireland at the police barracks just outside of Belfast in 1955-1957 as a major with the military police.

He later emigrated to Canada where he worked for a company headquartered in Detroit, Michigan. He came to the Island in 1990 with his wife who died in 1998. He is buried in the Island's cemetery.