

Hodgson, Sydney Scarth

Age: 53

Nationality: Canadian

Occupation: Civilian Engineer

Birth: 22 September 1887
London, U.K.

Death: 29 September 1940

Royal Jubilee Hospital,
Victoria, BC

Burial: Cremated in Vancouver, BC
Ashes scattered at Songhee Cemetery, BC



Westminster City
School Crest

Biography

Sydney Scarth Hodgson was born on 22 September 1887 in South London, U.K., to Joseph William and Emma Hodgson. The eldest of five children, he had two sisters, Mary Louise and Frances Edith, and two brothers, Charles Herbert and William Edwin. The family lived in Lambeth, London, and Sydney attended primary school at St. Matthew Church School, Brixton, London. In 1899, he applied for admission to Westminster City School, which still exists and is considered to be of excellent standard. Sydney married Ethel May and had a daughter Betty Doreen born around 1915.

Sydney left England for Quebec in June 1923, his wife and daughter followed him later to settle in Vancouver, where he was working as an engineer.

On Thursday 26 September 1940, a 50-ton counterweight was installed on a recently erected 72 foot crane at the Patricia Bay seaplane base. The following day four men were working in the cab of the crane, about 20 feet above the ground, when the top half toppled over. One man jumped to safety but Sydney Hodgson and the two other men , Thomas Dorrill and Frank Thornley, received head injuries and were sent to Royal Jubilee Hospital in Victoria. Thomas and Frank recovered but Sydney Hodgson, whose injuries were more severe, died on Sunday, September 29th. His body was returned to Vancouver for Cremation and the ashes were scattered at the Songhee Cemetery.

Details of Accident

Newspaper clippings from the Victoria Colonist following the accident:

THREE HURT AT PATRICIA BAY

Accident to Crane Sends
Trio of Workmen to
Hospital

At Patricia Bay three men were seriously injured yesterday morning in an accident to a recently-installed crane. The men suffered head injuries, which necessitated their removal to the Jubilee Hospital. Two were reported improved last night, but the third was still unconscious.

Frank Thornley is from Sidney, and Thomas Dorrill and Sidney Hodgson from Vancouver. The latter apparently suffered the most serious injuries.

It was believed that the fifty-ton counterweight of the crane, which had been installed on Thursday, toppled the seventy-two-foot crane. Four men were in the operators' cab twenty feet above the ground. One workman jumped clear, but the others were trapped inside the cab. The injured were given first aid at Patricia Bay and removed to hospital in the R.C.A.F. ambulance. Dr. Thomas McPherson attended them.

Worker Dies Of Injuries In Hospital

Injuries which Sydney Scarth Hodgson, aged fifty-three years, received in an accident last Friday at Patricia Bay, proved fatal to the Vancouver workman on Sunday night in the Jubilee Hospital. Mr. Hodgson suffered a fractured skull.

Two other men, Frank Thornley, Sidney, and Thomas Dorrill, Vancouver, who were also injured in the accident, were reported to be improving last night.

Mr. Hodgson was born in London and had been a resident of Vancouver for the past seventeen years. He leaves in sorrow his widow and one daughter, at the family residence, Vancouver; two brothers in Nelson, B.C., and two sisters in England. The remains will be forwarded on this afternoon's boat to Vancouver, where cremation will take place. The Thompson Funeral Home has charge of the arrangements. An inquest will be held at 10:30 o'clock this morning.

Inquest Set—An inquest into circumstances surrounding the death on Sunday of Sydney S. Hodgson from injuries received in a crane accident at Patricia Bay will be held before Dr. E. C. Hart, the coroner, in the Thomson Funeral Home at 10 o'clock on the morning of October 15. Members of the jury selected yesterday were: Charles Dale (foreman), Ernest Pitman, William Armour, Charles Fields, Stanley Hinde, Herbert S. Roy and William Irvine.

Accidental Death—A verdict of accidental death was returned yesterday by a coroner's jury, under Dr. C. E. Hart, at the inquest held on the death of Sydney Hodgson, who died of injuries received when the top half of a crane in which he was working on September 27, at Patricia Bay, toppled over. According to the foreman, the crane had been working three days before the accident. Two other men, also in the crane at the time, were injured.

The following obituary was posted in the Vancouver Daily Province newspaper on October 1st 1940.

"HODGSON. Passed away in Royal Jubilee Hospital, on Sept. 29, 1940, Sydney Scarth

HODGSON, 2176 W. Fortieth Ave. Survived by his wife, 1 daughter, Betty in Vancouver, 2 sisters Louise and Edith in England, 2 brothers, Bert, in Nelson B.C. and William, Picton, New Zealand. Funeral service, Wednesday Oct. 2 at 2 o'clock at Nunn and Thomson's Chapel 30th and Cambie. Lt. Col. Rev. C. C. OWEN officiating. Cremation."



Crane lifting Stranraer aircraft at Patricia Bay