

Sidney John Worsley born Padstow, Cornwall 20 February 1895
son of James Worsley and Elizabeth (Bessie) Hornabrook

Worsley: Scholar and soldier (1895 – 1974)



Portrait of Sidney John Worsley (1895 – 1974)

The portrait of John Worsley that hangs in the Worsley meeting room on the 2nd floor of Horizon's is distinctive in its depiction of the two sides of the subject's life: the academic and the military.

John Worsley had an impoverished upbringing, but extra lessons and hard work won him a scholarship to a private school. He then earned a scholarship for teacher training, alongside which he enlisted in the Territorial Force as a gunner in 1911.

On the outbreak of war in 1914, Worsley was commissioned, and he went on to serve for the duration of the war. By the time he was 23 years old, he had been awarded three Military Crosses and a Distinguished Service Order for "gallantry and devotion to duty" in brutal circumstances.

After the war, Worsley spent a year in India, then earned an undergraduate degree in History at King's College London, before working at the University of London while serving in the O.T.C.

During the Second World War, Colonel Worsley served on the General Staff as Inspector of Training Corps and Cadets, and was

awarded an Honorary M.A. by Oxford University.

In 1945, Worsley was appointed Principal of the College of Estate Management, a post which he held for ten years. Principal Worsley led the College as it rebuilt itself after the war. He moved the College into a new permanent home, expanded its premises, and reorganised the teaching structure of the College.

It has been said that John Worsley was never sure whether he was happiest as an academic or a soldier, hence the reason for his unusual portrait which includes both aspects of his life. It is worth noting, however, that the military uniform is in the foreground.

Extract from article 'Sidney John Worsley, 1895-1974', Dr Terry Buckingham, The Staffordshire Knot, pages 28-29, date unknown.

Awarded the Military Cross

2nd Lt Sidney John Worsley N Staff R, Res Bn, Spec Res
Edinburgh Gazette June 5th 1916 page 1004

For conspicuous gallantry in action. He took command of his company with great courage and determination. Later, he captured an enemy trench with great gallantry. He set a fine example. (The Military Cross was awarded in London Gazette dated 3rd June 1916.).

Awarded a bar to their Military Cross for subsequent acts of conspicuous gallantry;

2nd Lt Sidney John Worsley M C, N Staff Rt Spec Res

For conspicuous gallantry in action He took command of his company with great courage and determination. Later he captured an enemy trench with great gallantry. He set a fine example (The Military Cross was awarded in London gazette dated 3 June 1916)
London Gazette 14 November 1916

AWARDED A SECOND BAR TO THE MILITARY CROSS

Capt Sidney John Worsley MC, N Staff Rt Spec Res

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty in handling his company with great ability during a counter attack and in commanding the rearguard company during a retirement when by his coolness and initiative he materially assisted the orderly retirement of his battalion. Later on a motor bicycle he carried out a daring reconnaissance and brought back information of the utmost value.

(M.C. gazetted 3 June 1916)

(Bar gazetted 14th November 1916)

London Gazette 26 July 1918 page 8753

AWARDED THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE ORDER

Capt Sidney John Worsley M.C. 4th Bn N Staff R

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty near Verbrandenmolen on 28 September 1918 He led his company to the allotted objective, capturing a field gun. The following day at Zandoovre he again led his company in the face of very heavy machine gun fire and was wounded in the chest while doing so.

London Gazette 1st February 1919

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GROUP OF NINE: Distinguished Service Order ((GRI) with first and second award bars; 1914-15 Star; British War Medal 1914-18; Victory Medal 1914-19 with MID; Defence Medal 1939-45; War Medal 1939-45; Coronation Medal 1937; Territorial Efficiency Decoration (GVR) with four bars, all GVIR. Swing mounted and stored in a miniature medal case by A.H.Baldwin & Sons Ltd. *An original set of contemporary medals, extremely fine and rare with four gallantry awards.* Estimate

Colonel Sidney John Worsley, born 1895, in charge of the OTC at Nottingham University at the time of the war. He was granted a commission at the age of 19 in the North Staffordshire Regiment, serving with the war. He was awarded the Military Cross at Ypres in June 1916, a first bar in November 1916 for gallantry at Delville Wood, a second bar for conspicuous gallantry on the Somme from April to June 1917, and finally the Distinguished Service Order for conspicuous gallantry near Verbrandenmolen on 28 September 1918 being wounded in the chest. He was also Mentioned in Despatches by Field Marshall Sir Douglas Haig on 1 March 1919. MC No citation. (2/LT) MC First Bar. LG November 1916 (2/LT) 'For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty in handling his Company with great courage and determination. Later he captured a machine gun with great gallantry. He set a fine example.' MC Second Bar. LG 26 July 1918 (Capt) 'For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty in handling his Company with great ability during a counter-attack, and in commanding the rearguard Company during a retirement, when by his coolness and initiative he materially assisted the orderly retirement of his Battalion. Later, on a motor bicycle, he carried out a daring reconnaissance and brought back information of the utmost value.' DSO. LG 2 February 1919 (Capt) 'For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty near Verbrandenmolen on 28 September 1918 He led his company to the allotted objective, capturing a field gun. The following day at Zandoovre he again led his company in the face of very heavy machine gun fire and was wounded in the chest while doing so.'

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