

## Museum of Army Flying – British Army Flying Memorial names protocol

### Royal Flying Corps

The list of Royal Flying Corps deaths has been drawn from the following sources:

- Campbell, Captain G. L., Royal Flying Corps (Military Wing): Casualties and Honours during the War of 1914-17, Picton Publishing Ltd., Chippenham, (1987)
- H.M.S.O., Officers Died in the Great War 1914-1919 (3rd Ed.), Samson Books Ltd., London (1979)
- Henshaw, Trevor, The Sky Their Battlefield: Air Fighting and the complete list of Allied air casualties from enemy action in the First War, Grub Street, London (1995)
- McInnes, I. & Webb, J.V., A Contemptible Little Flying Corps, The London Stamp Exchange Ltd., London (1991)
- Hobson, Chris, Airmen Died in the Great War 1914-1918: The Roll of Honour of the British and Commonwealth Air Services of the First World War, J.B. Hayward & Son, Suffolk (1995)
- Commonwealth War Graves Commission via <http://www.cwgc.org/>
- The Army List
- Official War Office documents such as Medal Cards, Service Records, Rolls of Honour and Medal lists

The list consists of 4,196 names and includes both officers and other ranks. The following criteria and provisions were used:

- Names are included if the person died whilst in service with the Royal Flying Corps, either as a direct member of the corps or whilst being attached or seconded.
- Royal Flying Corps members who were themselves seconded or attached to other units are not included.
- The person's last known rank is used in its full form: Temporary, Local, Acting and Substantive ranks will be used in full. I.e. Temporary Lt on probation Smith becomes Lt Smith.

The above sources determine whether a name is included or excluded: if it appears on any of these credible sources the name becomes part of the list. No names have been taken off as a result of the manner in which the person died as long as they fit the above criteria.

Only individuals who have died in service with the Royal Flying Corps are recorded. Any individuals who served in the RFC and who died after the formation of the Royal Air Force on 1 April 1918 are not recorded on this memorial. This includes individuals who died on or after 1 April 1918 without knowing they were serving in the Royal Air Force, for example prisoners of war (POWs) or seriously ill individuals.

Australian Flying Corps (AFC) members attached to the Royal Flying Corps either individually or as a Squadron will be included in the list as long as they fit the general criteria as outlined above (With

the exception of service in the RFC). The basis for these names is the Australian Flying Corps list in the following source:

“Hobson, Chris, *Airmen Died in the Great War 1914-1918: The Roll of Honour of the British and Commonwealth Air Services of the First World War*, J.B. Hayward & Son, Suffolk (1995)”

Exceptions are made in the unusual case where the protocol does not resolve an issue or produce a satisfactory result. The deliberations for any such decisions can be found in the research spread sheets available in the Museum of Army Flying archive.

In case the used sources show discrepancies regarding the listed information (surname, initials, rank, post nominals and date of death) the following procedure will be used to make a decision on the final designation:

### **Surnames and ranks**

Any discrepancies in surname will be solved using the following sequence as leading sources (apart from exceptional circumstances):

1. Commonwealth War Graves Commission (1914-1918 only)
2. Service record/medal card
3. Airmen died in the Great War (1914-1918 only)

In cases with double barrelled surnames, the Army list is taken as the main source. The reason for this is that the Commonwealth War Graves Commission consistently splits this type of surname.

Ranks are abbreviated according to contemporary norms.

### **Initials and post nominals**

Any discrepancies in initials and post nominals will be solved using the following sequence as leading sources (apart from exceptional circumstances):

1. The Army List (officers only)
2. Commonwealth War Graves Commission (1914-1918 only)
3. Service record/medal card
4. Airmen died in the Great War (1914-1918 only)

In the case that there is cause for concern regarding initials, The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) has been taken as the leading source for deaths that occurred between 1914 and 1918. The reason for this is that the CWGC's records have been publically available for over 100 years and any mistakes are therefore most likely to have been corrected in this source over any other source.

Initials are simplified in the following manner when necessary:

StJ becomes S, LeM becomes M, d'A becomes A, deB becomes B, apR becomes R, vonI becomes I, F-R becomes F, McD becomes MD.

Post nominals are exclusively British with the exception of the French and Belgian Croix de Guerre. Used post nominals follow the generally accepted order of precedence and abbreviation.

**Date of death**

Any discrepancies in dates of death (month and year) will be solved using the following sequence as leading sources (apart from exceptional circumstances):

1. Commonwealth War Graves Commission (1914-1918 only)
2. Service record/medal card
3. Airmen died in the Great War (1914-1918 only)

### Air Observation Post Squadrons

The list of Air Observation Post Squadrons deaths has been drawn together from the following sources:

- The Museum of Army Flying archives
- Commonwealth War Graves Commission via <http://www.cwgc.org/>
- The Army List

The list consists of 146 names of officers and other ranks who died as part of the Air Observation Post Squadrons between their formation and the amalgamation of the AOP into the current Army Air Corps. The AOP list includes army pilots as well as observers and RAF ground crew. The following criteria and provisions were used to determine if someone is included in this list:

- Names are included if the person died whilst in service with the Air Observation Post Squadrons, either as a direct member of a squadron or whilst being attached or seconded.
- AOP members who were themselves seconded or attached to other units are not included.
- The person's last known rank is used in its full form: Temporary, Local, Acting and Substantive ranks will be used in full. I.e. Temporary Lt on probation Smith becomes Lt Smith.

The above sources determine whether a name is included or excluded: if it appears on any of these credible sources the name becomes part of the list (with the exception of cases where research suggests they do not meet the qualifying criteria). No names have been taken off as a result of the manner in which the person died as long as they fit the above criteria.

Exceptions are made in the unusual case where the protocol does not resolve an issue or produce a satisfactory result. The deliberations for any such decisions can be found in the research spread sheets available in the Museum of Army Flying archive.

In case the used sources show discrepancies regarding the listed information (surname, initials, rank, post nominals and date of death) deliberations will be made taking in all the relevant data. If a solution does not present itself the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's data takes precedence over any other source.

Ranks are abbreviated according to contemporary norms. Post nominals are exclusively British with the exception of the French and Belgian Croix de Guerre. Used post nominals follow generally accepted order of precedence and abbreviation. Initials are simplified in the following manner when necessary:

StJ becomes S, LeM becomes M, d'A becomes A, deB becomes B, apR becomes R, vonI becomes I, F-R becomes F.

### Glider Pilot Regiment

The list of Glider Pilot Regiment deaths has been drawn together from the following sources:

- The Museum of Army Flying Glider Pilot Regiment Database  
(based on a very large variety of sources both in and outside the museum. The database has been constructed over a period of years)
- Commonwealth War Graves Commission via <http://www.cwgc.org/>
- American Battle Monuments Commission via <http://www.abmc.gov/>

The list consists of 592 names of officers and other ranks who died as part of the Glider Pilot Regiment between its formation and the amalgamation of the regiment into the current Army Air Corps. The following criteria and provisions were used to determine if someone is included in this list:

- Names are included if the person died whilst in service with the Glider Pilot Regiment, either as a direct member of the Regiment or whilst being attached or seconded.
- GPR members who were themselves seconded or attached to other units are not included.
- The person's last known rank is used in its full form: Temporary, Local, Acting and Substantive ranks will be used in full. I.e. Temporary Lt on probation Smith becomes Lt Smith.

The above sources determine whether a name is included or excluded: if it appears on any of these credible sources the name becomes part of the list (with the exception of cases where research suggests they do not meet the qualifying criteria). No names have been taken off as a result of the manner in which the person died as long as they fit the above criteria. Aircraft technicians and other RAF ground crew stationed at airfields are not included. These individuals were attached to the various airfields at which gliders were stationed and were not members of the Glider Pilot Regiment or attached to it.

Exceptions are made in the unusual case where the protocol does not resolve an issue or produce a satisfactory result. The deliberations for any such decisions can be found in the research spread sheets available in the Museum of Army Flying archive.

In case the used sources show discrepancies regarding the listed information (surname, initials, rank, post nominals and date of death) deliberations will be made taking in all the relevant data.

Ranks are abbreviated according to contemporary norms. Post nominals are exclusively British with the exception of the French and Belgian Croix de Guerre. Used post nominals follow generally accepted order of precedence and abbreviation. Initials are simplified in the following manner when necessary:

StJ becomes S, LeM becomes M, d'A becomes A, deB becomes B, apR becomes R, vonI becomes I, F-R becomes F.

The Glider Pilot Regiment Section includes the names of two RAAF members: P/O Davies and P/O Fraser. These two men died as glider pilots on operation Freshman alongside Sergeants Strathdee

and Doig of the Glider Pilot Regiment. In the tradition of the Royal Flying Corps and their connection with the Australian Flying Corps who fought within and beside them, we include these two men in this section.

Sgt Rutter is included in this list despite having died before the official formation of the Glider Pilot Regiment. He died in training with the unit that would shortly after become the first batch of pilots of the Glider Pilot Regiment. Because of his unique position, he is included.

Army Air Corps (1957-)

The list of Army Air Corps deaths has been drawn up by the Army Air Corps' Regimental Secretary Lt Col (Retd) CJ Ions MBE.

The list consists of 192 names of officers and other ranks who died as part of the Army Air Corps since its formation in 1957. The following criteria and provisions were used to determine if someone is included in this list:

- Names are included if the person died whilst in service with the Army Air Corps, either as a direct member of the Regiment or whilst being attached or seconded.
- AAC members who were themselves seconded or attached to other units are not included.
- The person's last known rank is used in its full form: Temporary, Local, Acting and Substantive ranks will be used in full. I.e. Temporary Lt on probation Smith becomes Lt Smith.

The Regimental Secretary determines whether a name is included or excluded according to the criteria above. No names have been taken off as a result of the manner in which the person died as long as they fit the criteria.

Ranks are abbreviated according to contemporary norms. Post nominals are exclusively British with the exception of the French and Belgian Croix de Guerre. Used post nominals follow generally accepted order of precedence and abbreviation. Initials are simplified in the following manner when necessary:

StJ becomes S, LeM becomes M, d'A becomes A, deB becomes B, apR becomes R, vonI becomes I, F-R becomes F.