

**Hampstead Cemetery,
London, England
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



LIEUTENANT

D. C. BLACK

ROYAL AIR FORCE

23RD APRIL, 1918 Age 19

Donald Curdie BLACK

Donald Curdie Black was born at Mount Noorat, Victoria on 11th January, 1899 to parents Archibald John and Agnes Black (nee Curdie).

Archibald John Black, father of Donald Curdie Black, died on 20th January, 1912, aged 52, at Terang, Victoria.

Donald Curdie Black was educated at Geelong Grammar School, Victoria.

Donald C. Black, aged 17, along with his mother – Agnes Black (aged 50), brother - Ian S. Black (aged 19) & sister – Grace A. Black (aged 15) were passengers on S.S. *Mankura* sailing from Sydney, Australia on 11th May, 1916 as part of the United States, Canadian Border Crossings.

Donald Curdie Black attended Trinity College, Cambridge from October 1916 to December, 1916 as a Medical Student. (as listed on British Royal Air Force Officer's Service Record)

Donald Curdie Black joined British Royal Air Force.

Royal Flying Corps (R.F.C.) / Royal Air Force (R.A.F.)

The Royal Flying Corps (R.F.C.) was the air arm of the British Army before and during the First World War, until it merged with the Royal Naval Air Service on 1 April 1918 to form the Royal Air Force (R.A.F.). During the early part of the war, the R.F.C. supported the British Army by artillery co-operation and photographic reconnaissance. This work gradually led R.F.C. pilots into aerial battles with German pilots and later in the war included the strafing of enemy infantry and emplacements, the bombing of German military airfields and later the strategic bombing of German industrial and transport facilities.

The R.F.C.'s motto was *Per ardua ad astra* ("Through adversity to the stars"). This remains the motto of the Royal Air Force (R.A.F.) and other Commonwealth air forces.

(Extract from Wikipedia)

First World War –Training & Pilots Wings

By 1918 cadets progressed through several phases to qualify for their Pilot's Wings.

At the Cadet Wing pupils received basic military training during a two-month course which included drill, physical training, military law, map reading and signalling using Morse code.

Once completed they moved on to the School of Military Aeronautics to begin a two-month course of military training and ground instruction. The topics covered included aviation theory, navigation, map reading, wireless signalling using Morse code, photography and artillery and infantry co-operation. The students were also taught the working of aero engines and instruments and basic rigging.

The next phase involved flying at a Training Depot Stations (TDS). Cadets were expected to complete a minimum of 25 hours elementary flying training - both dual and solo - on Avro 504 aircraft logged over three months. Thorough ground instruction was also provided. This achieved, student pilots received the grade 'A'.

Cadets remained at the same TDS for the second phase of their instruction. This two-month course included a further 35 hours flying time with a minimum of five hours on a modern 'front-line' type of aircraft. Student pilots also had to demonstrate proficiency in cross-country and formation flying, reconnaissance work and gunnery. Successful cadets were graded 'B' and commissioned.

Students completed their training at specialist schools which taught them the skills they would need to survive in combat. The courses varied in length and content according to the operational role selected (e.g. fighter, army co-operation, bomber or maritime). On completion, student pilots were graded 'C' and permitted to wear their Pilot's Wings.

In all, by 1918, it took about eleven months for an individual to qualify as a Pilot.

Pilot Wings

The original Royal Flying Corps (R.F.C.) Pilot's brevet or Pilot's Wings was designed by senior officers General Sir Frederick Sykes and General Sir David Henderson.

It consisted of the wings of a swift in white silk embroidery with the monogram of RFC encircled by a laurel wreath of brown silk. The monogram was surmounted by a crown.

The Wings were given Royal approval by King George V in February 1913 under Army Order 40/13.

The Wings became the symbol of qualification worn by trained pilots.

When the Royal Air Force (R.A.F.) was formed in 1918 the design was changed slightly. The wing shape took the form of an eagle and the monogram became RAF.

The design of the flying badge was the first of its kind in the world. It has been used as the basis of pilot's badges for the air forces of many countries.



Pilots Wings: RAF

From the Supplement to the *London Gazette* – 8 August, 1917:

The undermentioned cadets to be temp. 2nd Lts. (on prob):-

19 July 1917

....

Donald Curdie Black

.....

Second Lieutenant Donald Curdie Black was transferred to 5 T.D.S. (Training Depot Station) on 16th March, 1918 as Assistant Instructor.

R.A.F. Easton on Hill

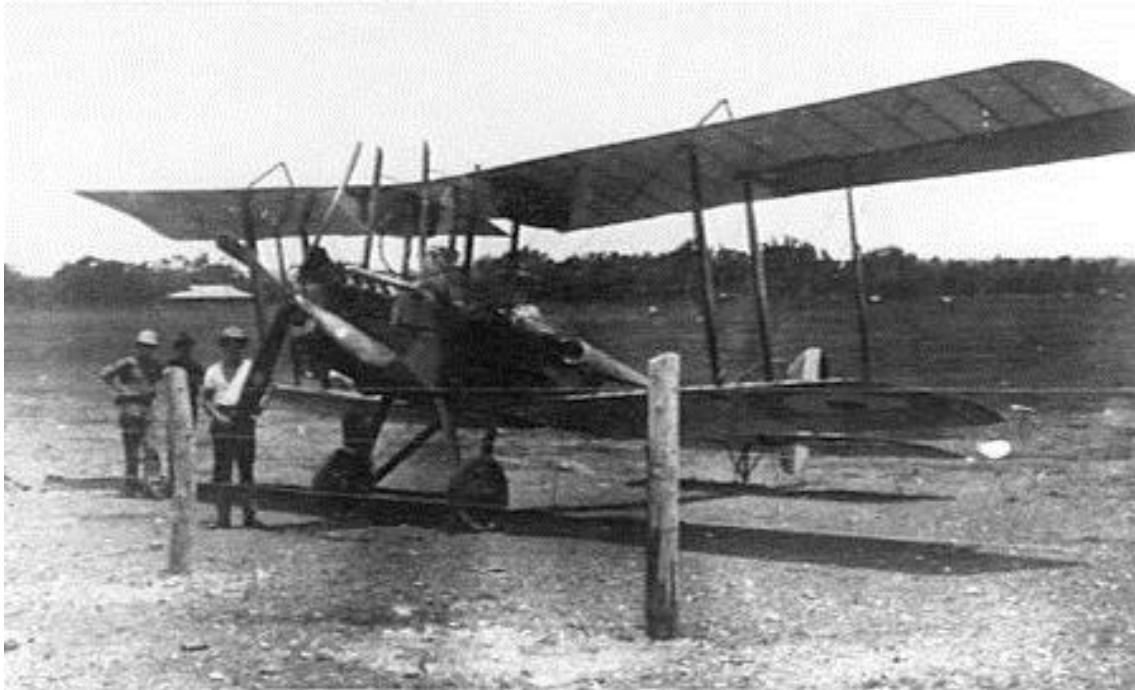
R.A.F. Easton on Hill, located to the western end of Wittering, was opened on 24th September, 1917 as No. 5 Training Station in 1917. It operated a number of training aircraft including: DH6s, Sopwith Camels, RE8s and Avro's 504. Following the formation of the Royal Air Force, Easton on the Hill was renamed R.A.F. Collyweston on 1 April 1918 and continued in the training role until after the war when the squadron was disbanded and the airfield was closed.

The British Royal Air Force Service Record for Second Lieutenant Donald Curdie Black recorded that since joining R.F.C. he had flown the following machines: M.F.S.H. (Maurice Farman ShortHorn), A.W., B.E., R.E8, D.H.4, D.H. 9 & D.H.6.

Second Lieutenant Donald Curdie Black was instructing Second Lieutenant Charles Lawton Smuts in a Royal Aircraft Factory B.E.2e serial number B4547 from 5 Training Depot Station at Easton on Hill, near Stamford, England on 23rd April, 1918.

Second Lieutenant Donald Curdie Black died at 3.30 pm on 23rd April, 1918 near Stamford, England as a result of an aeroplane crash. Both men died in the crash. Second Lieutenant Charles Lawton Smuts, aged 22, was from South Africa.

A Court of Enquiry was held into the deaths of Second Lieutenant Donald Curdie Black & Second Lieutenant Donald Charles Lawton Smuts. "*The Court having carefully considered the evidence and examined the wreckage of B.E.2.E, B.4547, find that No. 149232 Lieut. Black R.A.F. (G.L.) and No. 20457 2/Lieut. C. L. Smuts R.A.F. (G.L.) were killed as the result of the Aileron compensating cable jumping off the pulley and jamming whilst in the middle of a right-hand turn, which caused the machine to be temporarily out of control resulting in a half spin and a nose dive into the ground.*"



Royal Aircraft Factory B.E.2e

Newspaper item – Lancashire Evening Post, England – 25 April, 1918:

TRAGIC DEATH OF TWO AVIATORS

At an inquest in the Midlands on two aviators, Lieut. Donald Curdie Black (19), an instructor and Second-Lieut. Lawton Smuts, (22), a pupil of South Africa, stated t be a nephew of General Smuts, evidence was given that the machine was observed trying to turn, but it nose-dived and crashed to the ground. A verdict of “Accidental death” was returned.

A death for Donald C. Black, aged 19, was registered in the June quarter, 1918 in the district of Stamford, Huntingdonshire, England.

Lieutenant Donald Curdie Black was buried on 27th April, 1918 in Hampstead Cemetery, London, England – Plot number Q. 2. 29 and has a Private Granite Vault Monument. His death is still acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Newspaper item – Geelong Advertiser, Victoria, Australia – 6 May, 1918:

NEWS OF GEELONG AND DISTRICT SOLDIERS

FLIGHT-LIEUT. DONALD CURDIE BLACK

Second son of the late A. J. Black and Mrs Black, Mount Noorat, Terang, killed in a flying accident on April 23rd, was declared yesterday by one of the leading masters at the Church of England Grammar School, Corio, to be the cleverest lad he had the honor of teaching during his 20 years' connection with the school; he was at the same time a very daring boy, and the champion gymnast of his day. Donald, with his brother, Ian, a year older, left the school about the middle of 1916, and proceeded with their mother, via America, to England, where Ian was to join the Imperial forces and Donald to go to school, to complete his education. Ian became attached to the Artillery, and soon gained a commission. Donald Black went to Cambridge, where he passed the entrance examination with great distinction, gaining first class passes in all subjects. As soon as he was 18 years of age he joined the Royal Flying Corps, and very quickly got his wings. In a letter written on December 5th last to Mr Williams he stated that he was an instructor at a training depot at Stamford, teaching others in flying, and was very successful at his work. It is supposed that he was engaged in this work when the accident occurred by which he met his death.

Probate Calendar

Black, Donald Curdie, of Mount Moorat, Victoria, Australia, Seconde-Lieutenant Royal Flying Corps died 23 April 1918 near Wattering Aerodrome, Easton, Lincoln. Probate London 10 August to Agnes Black, Widow. Effects £347 1s. 5d.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Lieutenant D. C. Black, aged 19, of No. 5 Training Depot Station, Royal Air Force. He was the son of Archibald and Agnes Black, of 27 Harrington Gardens, London.

Donald C. Black is remembered on the Cambridge University, Trinity College WW1 Roll of Honour, located in Chapel at Trinity College, England.




Trinity College WW1 Roll of Honour (Photo from War Memorials Online - 28th61st)

Information from "The War List of the University of Cambridge, 1914 – 1918"

Black, Donald Curdie

Born Jan. 11, 1899, in Glenormiston, Mount Noorat, Victoria, Australia. Son of Archibald John Black, MA, of 27 Harrington Gardens, London. Adm. as pensioner at Trinity, Oct. 2, 1916. 2nd Lieutenant (Aeroplane Officer), Royal Air Force. Killed in flying accident April 23, 1918.

WILLIAM ADAMSON
J CARLTON ADDY
MARTIN C ALBRIGHT
HUGH ALDERSEY
JOHN E R ALLEN
MELVILLE R HAALLEN
CHARLES C GALLOM
CHARLES N ANDREWES
ARTHUR G ANSELL
BASIL L M APPERLY
MICHAEL RICHARD
L ARMSTRONG
GEOFFREY SELDON
ARNOLD WALLINGER
ARTHUR JAMES
AUSTEN CARTMELL
HUBERT E BACKHOUSE
ARTHUR R BACKUS
PHILIP G BAINBRIGGE
JOHN BALFOUR
HAROLD W BALLAMY
LESLIE A BALLANCE
WILLIAM HENRY J
BARBER-STARKEY
THOMAS H BARCLAY
HARTLEY BARKBY
T KENNETH BARNSELY
SIDNEY ANS BARTHROPP

RALPH C BATLEY
ADAM C BEALEY
WILFRID HENRY
BEALMONT-NESBITT
MAURICE AN BECHER
DAVID REVELL
BEDELSIVEWRIGHT
ARTHUR H BEER
EDWARD V BELL
GAWAIN M BELL
JOHN JAMES BELL
WILLIAM H D BELL
RICHARD C BELLEW
HENRY D A BENTINCK
CHRISTOPHER BETHELL
GEORGE BINNING
RUPERT EUSTON BION
GEORGE BIRKBECK
GERASE W BIRKBECK
DONALD C BLACK 
GEORGE P BLAKE
HENRY EDWARD C
H BODENHAM
GEOFFREY R BOLITHO
WILLIAM S BOLTON
CHARLES G BOND
ARTHUR THOMAS
BONHAM-CARTER

Trinity College WW1 Roll of Honour (Photos from War Memorials Online - 28th61st)

Donald Curdie Black is remembered on a War Memorial Plaque located in the Cloisters at Geelong Grammar School (Corio Campus).



The Cloisters – Geelong Grammar School (Corio Campus)



Geelong Grammar School (Photo courtesy of Melissa Campbell – Archivist GGS)

D. C. Black is remembered on Terang War Memorial, located in High Street, Terang, Victoria.



Terang War Memorial (Photos from Carol's Headstones)



Lieutenant D. C. Black is remembered on the Commemorative Roll Book, located in the Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra. The Commemorative Roll records the names of those Australians who died during or as a result of wars in which Australians served, but who were not serving in the Australian Armed Forces and therefore not eligible for inclusion on the Roll of Honour.



Commemorative Roll Book at The Australian War Memorial *(Photo from AWM)*



Commemorative Area of the Australian War Memorial *(Capital Photographer)*

(2 pages of Flight Lieutenant Donald Curdie Black's Royal Air Force Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives UK website).

Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial & National Archives



Newspaper Notices

PERSONAL

A cable message has been received stating that Flight-Lieut. Donald Curdie Black, second son of the late A. J. Black, and Mrs Black, of Mount Noorat, Terang, was killed in a flying accident on April 23. Lieutenant Black was educated at the Geelong Church of England Grammar School, and with his brother Ian left Victoria in May, 1916 to join the Imperial Forces.

(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – 4 May, 1918)

DEATHS

On Active Service

BLACK – On the 23rd April, as the result of a flying accident, Flight Lieutenant Donald Curdie Black, second son of the late A. J. Black and Mrs Black, of Mt. Noorat, Terang.

(The Age, Melbourne, Victoria – 4 May, 1918)

DIED ON SERVICE

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(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – 4 May, 1918)

SOCIAL NOTES

The people of the Western district deeply mourn the death of Flight-Lieutenant Donald Curdie Black, which occurred on April 23 in a flying collision that brought both machines to the ground. The cable message received on May 3, at Terang, gives only these, particulars. Lieutenant Black, who was only 19, was the second son of the late Mr. A. J. Black and Mrs. Black, of Mount Noorat, Terang. Early last year Mrs. Black and her sons left for England, with the intention that Mr. Ian Black should join the Imperial Army, and that Mr. Donald Black should go to Cambridge. Almost immediately, however, Mr. Donald Black joined the Imperial Flying Corps, wherein Mr. Ian Black had previously received a commission. Meanwhile Mrs. Black, seeing the necessity for a buffet for soldiers at Victoria station, set about raising the means to do so, generous contributions being sent from Melbourne to aid her fund, including £1,000 from the V.R.C. She called the buffet "The Victoria Buffet." Lieutenant Black, who was educated at the Geelong Grammar School, was a grandson of that pioneer of the Western district Dr. Daniel Curdie, of Tandarook, Camperdown. In 1840 Dr. Curdie settled at the head of Curdie's River. Curdie's River and Curdie's Inlet took their names from him. Mrs. Black is Dr. Curdie's fourth daughter.

(The Australasian, Melbourne, Victoria – 11 May, 1918)

Mainly About People

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(*The Daily News*, Perth, Western Australia – 21 May, 1918) & (*The Daily News*, Perth, Western Australia – 23 May, 1918)

An Airman's Funeral

LATE LIEUT. DONALD BLACK

The "Church Magazine" for May, 1918, of St. Columba's Church of Scotland, Belgravia, S.W., gives following account of the funeral of the late Flight-Lieutenant Donald Curdie Black, second son of Mrs A. J. Black, of Mt. Noorat, who was killed in a flying accident at Stamford, England, on April 27:—

The boy was only nineteen; and we buried him beside the graves of two other young officers. They had been his school fellows—also of nineteen years. The gun carriage was covered with cut flowers, the emblems, they seemed, of youth and beauty mown down in their glorious prime. As we followed him to the grave we passed the almond trees in their full glory of blossom. The other trees were but beginning to be green their promise of full development was as yet afar. But the almond trees were precociously perfect; and its stem would be bare when the later trees were but coming into their own. And here, too, seemed the parable of our airman's brief career; so soon consummated; so gloriously rich; so early over. The ceremonial at the grave seemed further to encourage the mood. Three volleys into the air; the last post, the fading drone of an invisible aeroplane somewhere above; then silence; and we left that young life, so friskily, mischievously, gloriously buoyant just a week ago—we left it to the silence and the soil.

But there was another mood. We had read over the coffin the 4th chapter of the 1st Epistle to the Thessalonians. How old-world, out of date, unscientific its effete, materialistic imagery had often appeared to us in the drowsy days of peace. But it arrests us now. We shall "meet the Lord in the air," "caught up in the clouds," "so shall we ever be with the Lord." Effete?— but that is just so as it has been today. The imagery is not archaic; it is that of ultimate modernity. It was ____ aforetime for an airman's funeral. And at once the mood changes to one of faith and victory. We can hear his boyish laugh, far overhead, in the sunny air, saying "I am here—not there." The body, no doubt, crashed down with the machine that temporarily failed it, but not he—the spirit that met in joyful sacrifice, the Lord of Sacrifice "in the air." They said of him, proudly some months ago: "We have just heard that our boy has got his wings." And now the exuberant lad is living the larger life amid the larger values; spreading wide wings of ampler service outside the nest of earthly home. No, "the Thessalonians" is not archaic; its keynote is delirious, present victory; it is the most up-to-date, most joyous funeral service in the world.

(*Camperdown Chronicle*, Victoria, Australia – 18 July, 1918)

GRAMMAR OLD BOYS' RE-UNION

IMPRESSIVE MEMORIAL SERVICE

87 HAVE FALLEN

Old Geelong Grammarians held a reunion at the Church of England Grammar School, Corio, yesterday. The programme comprised a Memorial Service, cricket match and a dinner. In beautiful warm weather, tempered by a refreshing breeze, the large gathering of old boys, who came from far and near, had a most interesting day. Many came from Melbourne by special train; drags, motor cars, and the school motor launch took parties from Geelong; and as fresh groups arrived the present boys of the school gave them a rousing welcome. Those who have returned from active service abroad had a particularly warm reception. That was one of the objects of the re-union — to

welcome back those who had been to the war; and at the dinner in the Bracebridge Wilson Hall — the event which brought the day's proceedings to a close — this aspect of the re-union was dwelt upon with special emphasis by the speakers. An element of sadness, however, was occasioned by the fact that there are 87 old boys who will never return — who, as the head master said at a Memorial Service, “have laid down their lives for the great cause for which we were contending.”

An impressive service was conducted in the School Chapel at 5 p.m. — a “memorial service for old boys who have fallen in the service of their country.” The service was conducted by the Head Master of the School, the Rev. F. E. Brown, M.A., assisted by the Revs. C. Kingsley Cole and Denis M. Deasey.....

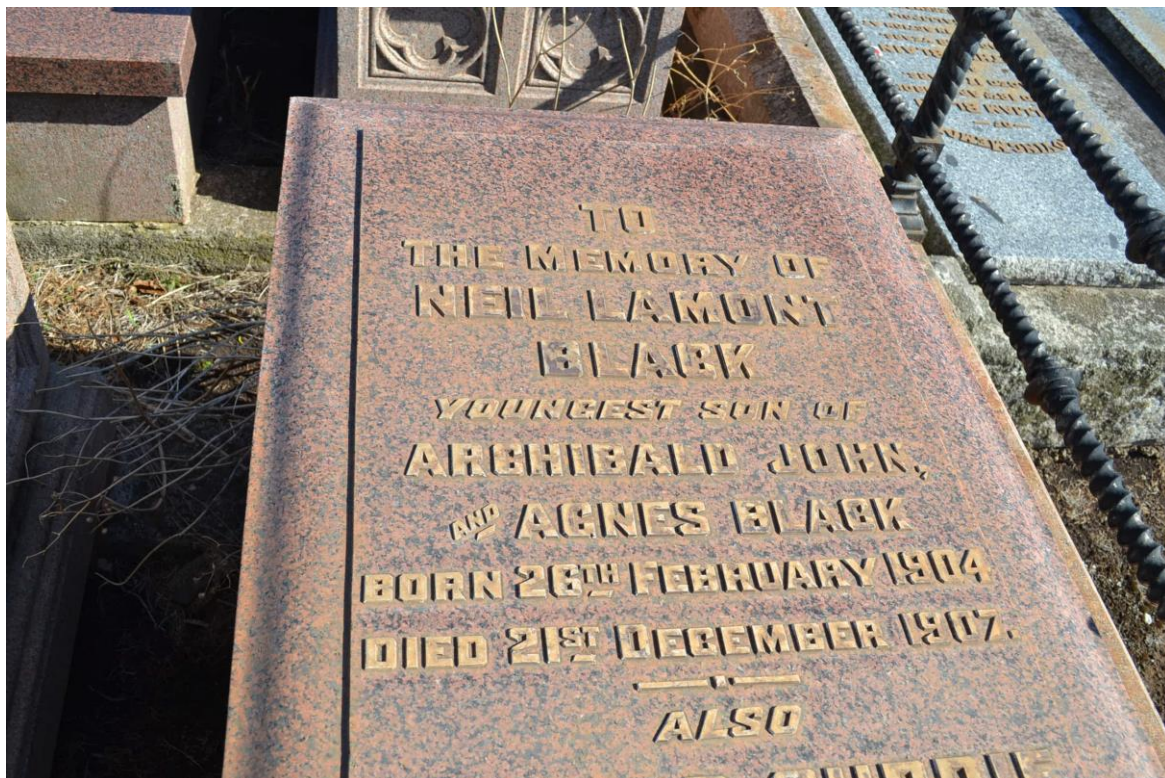
The names of those who fell in the war were announced. There are 87 names as follows:- William Robert Allen, William Thomas Traill Appelton, Noel Bechervaise, Norman Francis Henry Beggs, John Bell, George Russell Bell, Donald Curdie Black.....

(Geelong Advertiser, Victoria – 29 November, 1919)

Donald Curdie Black is remembered on a headstone, along with his younger brother, in Terang Cemetery, Victoria.



(Headstone photos courtesy of Carol's Headstones)



Also

*DONALD CURDIE
BLACK*

Who Died In The Great War

Born 11th January 1899

Died 23rd April 1918.

"He Giveth His Beloved Sleep"

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission cares for cemeteries and memorials in 23,000 locations, in 153 countries. In all 1.7 million men and women from the Commonwealth forces from WWI and WWII have been honoured and commemorated in perpetuity.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission, as part of its mandate, is responsible for commemorating all Commonwealth war dead individually and equally. To this end, the war dead are commemorated by name on a headstone, at an identified site of a burial, or on a memorial. War dead are commemorated uniformly and equally, irrespective of military or civil rank, race or creed.

Not all service personnel have a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. In some instances the relative chose to have their own memorial/headstone placed on the deceased's grave. These private headstones are not maintained by the CWGC as they have no jurisdiction to maintain them.

Lieutenant D. C. Black has a Private Monument.

Hampstead Cemetery, London, England

Hampstead Cemetery is located at Fortune Green with the entrance at the northern end of Fortune Green Road, 400 metres from West Hampstead Railway Station.

There are 217 Commonwealth burials of the 1914-18 war and a further 45 of the 1939-45 war here. In addition there is 1 Polish soldier and 1 Czech soldier burials and 1 non war military burial.

Those whose graves cannot be marked by headstone are recorded by name on a Screen Wall memorial in the War Graves Plot where the majority of the burials are to be found, near the Northern boundary, to the right of the main entrance.

(Information from CWGC)



Cross of Sacrifice in Hampstead Cemetery *(Photo by Marathon)*



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

J00781

Four Australian graves at Hampstead Cemetery on Anzac Day. On the far left is the grave of 337 Private (Pte) Leslie William Hamilton, 3rd Battalion, of Wagga Wagga, NSW who died of his wounds on 15 September 1915 aged 21 years. From the collection of Mr Alfred Thomas Sharp. Mr Sharp was the Commonwealth Immigration Officer of Victoria and was based in the London Office during the First World War. He and his wife hosted and visited many soldiers, particularly those from Victoria, who were recuperating in London. He also photographed many Australian graves in English cemeteries. His photograph collection relating to this period in London was bequeathed to the Memorial in 1922 after his death. During his time in London he was a member of the British Volunteer Regiment, serving with the Willesden Battalion, Middlesex Volunteer Regiment.



4 Australian CWGC WW1 War Graves

Left to Right: Hamilton, Westaway, Cameron & Kerr (Photo by D – Find a Grave)

Photo of Lieutenant D. C. Black's Private Granite Hipped Ledger Stone Monument in Hampstead Cemetery, London, England.



(Headstone photos by D - Find a Grave)

*To The Glory Of God
And In Proud And Loving Memory Of
DONALD CURDIE BLACK
Flight Commdr R.A.F.
And Of Mount Noorat, Victoria, Australia
Aged 19 Years
Born 11TH January 1899 Died O.A.S. 23RD April 1918
“Until The Day Break And The Shadows Flee Away”*

(Note: O.A.S. = On Active Service)





Lieutenant Black's Grave – 3rd Granite Monument from Front