

**Catterick Cemetery,
Catterick, North Yorkshire**

War Grave



Lest We Forget

World War 1



SECOND LIEUTENANT

OAKLEY ALSOP BROWNING

ROYAL FLYING CORPS

11TH AUGUST, 1917 Age 29

For God, King And Country

Oakley Alsop BROWNING

Oakley Alsop Browning was born at Carlton, Victoria to parents William and Elizabeth Alice Browning (nee Hutchinson). His birth was registered in 1888.

Elizabeth Alice Browning, mother of Oakley Alsop Browning, died on 3rd February, 1895 in Carlton North, Victoria.

The 1909 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Bourke, subdivision of Carlton North, Victoria recorded Oakley Browning, Traveller, of 749 Rathdown Street, North Carlton.

The 1912, 1913, 1914, 1915 & 1916 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Bourke, subdivision of Carlton North, Victoria recorded Oakley Alsop Browning, Clerk, of 749 Rathdown Street, North Carlton.

Oakley Alsop Browning was a 24 year old, single, Dispenser from Ardrossan, South Australia when he enlisted on 6th October, 1915 at Adelaide, South Australia with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 9587 & his religion was Methodist. His next of kin was listed as his brother – Dr. D. Browning, Ardrossan, South Australia.

Private Oakley Alsop Browning was posted to "B" Company of 2nd Depot Battalion on 6th October, 1915 for recruit training. He was transferred to A.A.M.C. (Australian Army Medical Corps) on 16th October, 1915 then transferred to A.A.M.C. at Mitcham on 1st November, 1915. Private Browning was transferred on 1st February, 1916 to 15th Reinforcements, First Australian Stationary Hospital.

Private Oakley Alsop Browning embarked from Adelaide, South Australia on RMS *Mongolia* on 9th March, 1916 with the First Australian Stationary Hospital, 15th Reinforcements.

Private Oakley Alsop Browning reported for duty at 1st Australian Stationary Hospital, Ismalia on 7th April, 1916.

Private Oakley Alsop Browning was transferred to 46th Battalion at Tel-el-Kebir on 30th April, 1916 & was taken on strength of 46th Battalion at Serapeum on 1st May, 1916.

Private Oakley Alsop Browning was attached to 46th Battalion & taken on strength of 12th Field Ambulance on 23rd May, 1916.

Private Oakley Alsop Browning embarked from Alexandria on 4th June, 1916 on *Scotian* to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force). He disembarked at Marseilles, France on 11th June, 1916.

Private Oakley Alsop Browning was admitted to 12th Australian Field Ambulance on 16th October, 1916 with influenza & was discharged to duty on 23rd October, 1916.

Private Oakley Alsop Browning proceeded to R.F.C. (Royal Flying Corps) School of Instruction on 11th November, 1916 & was transferred to No. 1 R.F.C. Cadet Battalion at Denham, England.

Oakley Alsop Browning was attached to O.C.B. (Officers Cadet Battalion) at Denham, England on 16th November, 1916 then transferred to Exeter College on 26th January, 1917 from R.F.C. No. 3 School of Military Aeronautics, Oxford.

The British Royal Air Force Officers' Service Record card for O. A. Browning has his year of birth listed as 1887 & the name of person to be informed of Casualties was listed as Dr. D. Browning, 3rd Australian Hospital, Dartford Kent.

Private Oakley Alsop Browning was discharged from Australian Imperial Force, in England, having been granted a Commission in the Imperial Army on 16th March, 1917. He had served for 1 year & 162 days.

Cadet Oakley Alsop Browning received a Commission in the Royal Flying Corps on 11th April, 1917.

From Supplement to The London Gazette – 11 April, 1917:

SPECIAL RESERVE OF OFFICERS

The undermentioned, from an Officer Cadet Unit, to be 2nd Lts. (on prob), 17th Mar, 1917:-

ROYAL FLYING CORPS

Mil. Wing

Oakley Alsop Browning

2nd Lieutenant Oakley Alsop Browning was attached to 14 RS (Reserve Squadron) from 21st March, 1917 then transferred to 6 RS (Reserve Squadron) at Catterick, Yorkshire, England on 23rd May, 1917.

Catterick

Catterick airfield first opened in 1914 as a Royal Flying Corps aerodrome with the role of training pilots and to assist in the defence of the North East of England. It came under RAF administration in 1918. (Wikipedia)

Second Lieutenant Oakley Alsop Browning, of No. 6 Training Squadron, Royal Flying Corps was piloting an Avro 504A Serial number 7967 out of Catterick Aerodrome on 11th August, 1917. His plane collided with B.E. 12 Serial number 6575 which was being piloted by Lieutenant Errington Edward Castle of New Zealand.

From the R.A.F. Museum Story Vault – Casualty Incident Card – “*Avro piloted by Browning got off 150 yds in front of B.E. 12 piloted by Lt. Castle. Avro turned to left, B.E. 12 caught Avro up & could not turn quick enough & machines collided.*” Other remarks – “*Under instructions(?) 25 solo flights in V.F. & Avros in this Sqd. 15 2/3 hrs flown prev to the accident. Flying ___ Aerodrome machine wrecked.*”

Second Lieutenant Oakley Alsop Browning died at 10.40 am on 11th August, 1917 ten yards outside the Catterick Aerodrome, Yorkshire, England as a result of his aeroplane colliding with another piloted by Lieutenant Errington Edward Castle who died on 12th August, 1917.

A death for Oakley A. Browning, aged 25, was registered in the September quarter, 1917 in the district of Yorkshire North Riding, England.

A Court of Inquiry was held – “*The collision between BE 12 6575 & Avro 7967 was due to the fact that the pilot of the Avro failed to see the BE 12 in time & that the pilot of the BE 12 had not _____ to turn quickly enough to avoid a collision – partly owing to the inability of this type of machine to turn very rapidly.*”

Second Lieutenant Oakley Alsop Browning was buried in Catterick Cemetery, Catterick, North Yorkshire, England – Plot number NN. 4. and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Lieutenant Errington Edward Castle was also buried in Catterick Cemetery, Catterick, North Yorkshire, England – Plot number E. 14.

Second Lieutenant Oakley Alsop Browning was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. The British War Medal was to be administered by the War Office, England. The Victory Medal was signed for by William Browning, father of the late Second Lieutenant Oakley Alsop Browning, on 3rd October, 1922.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Second Lieutenant Oakley Alsop Browning, aged 29, of Royal Flying Corps. He was the son of William Browning, of 749 Rathdown St., North Carlton, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia, and the late Elizabeth Alice Browning.

The Catterick Camp and Aerodrome War Memorial, located at the northern end of Catterick Village, atop an embankment at the roadside along High Street (A6136) is dedicated to the:

SACRED TO THE MEMORY/ OF THE OFFICERS, NON-COMMISSIONED/ OFFICERS AND MEN OF
CATTERICK/ CAMP AND AERODROME WHO/ FELL IN THE GREAT WAR/ 1914 - 1918/ MAY THEY REST IN
PEACE.



Catterick Camp and Aerodrome War Memorial



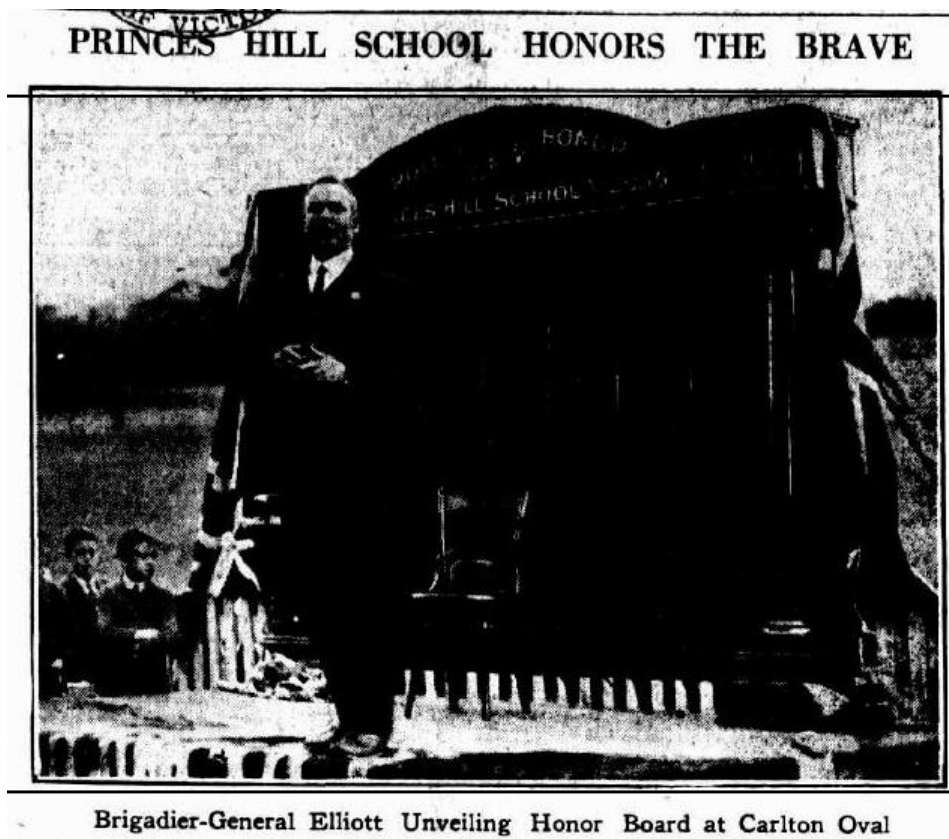
Second Lieutenant Oakley Alsop Browning is remembered on the Commemorative Roll Book, located in the Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra. The Commemorative Roll records the names of those Australians who died during or as a result of wars in which Australians served, but who were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



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



Oakley Alsop Browning is remembered on the Princes Hill School Roll of Honour, North Carlton, Victoria.



(Photo from The Herald, Melbourne, Victoria – 23 April, 1921)

O. Browning is remembered on the Ardrossan and District Honor Roll 1914 – 1919 which is located in Soldiers Memorial Hall, First Street, Ardrossan, South Australia.

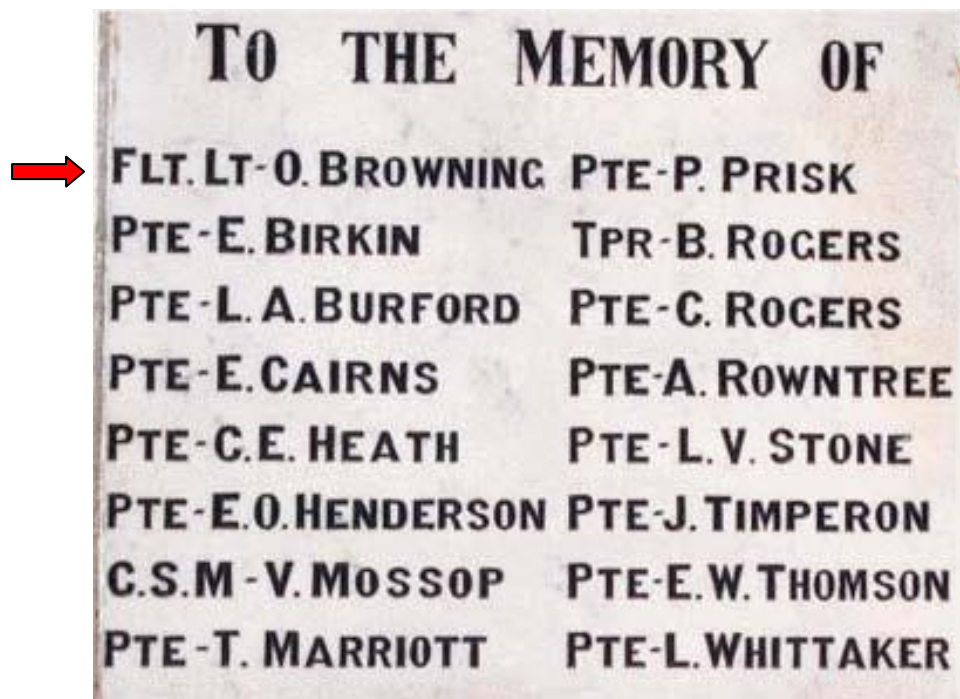


Ardrossan and District Honor Roll 1914 – 1919

Flt. Lt. O Browning is remembered on the Gates to the Soldiers Memorial Gardens, Second Street, Ardrossan, South Australia. The memorial gardens commemorate those who have served in the various conflicts in which Australia has been involved. The entrance to the gardens has an arch and gate with plaques on either side with one containing the names of those who lost their lives. The Memorial Gardens and arch were originally unveiled to commemorate the fallen of World War One.



Gates to the Soldiers Memorial Gardens (Photo by Mattinbgn)

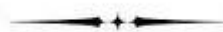


O. A. Browning is remembered in the Book of Remembrance at the Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne, Victoria.



(39 pages of Private Oakley Alsop Browning's A.I.F. Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll, Red Cross Wounded & Missing) & National Archives



Newspaper Notices

RETURNING INVALIDED

Mr W. Browning, of 749 Rathdown-street, North Carlton, has received a cable that his son, Major Denby de Coursey Browning, is returning to Australia invalided. Another son, Lieutenant O. A. Browning, has just received a commission in the Royal Flying Corps.

(*The Herald*, Melbourne, Victoria – 7 August, 1917)

DIED ON SERVICE

BROWNING - Killed in aeroplane accident, Catterick, England, on 11th August, 1917, Lieutenant Oakley A. Browning, Royal Flying Corps, dearly loved youngest son of William and the late Elizabeth A. Browning, 749 Rathdown street, North Carlton; also loved brother of William, Arthur, Major Denby, A.I.F., Alice, Annie, and Bertie, aged 29 years.

For God, King, and country.

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 28 August, 1917) & (*The Australasian*, Melbourne, Victoria – 1 September, 1917)

DIED ON SERVICE

BROWNING – In memory of my dear friend, Lieut. Oakley A. Browning (Oaks), Royal Flying Corps, accidentally killed at Catterick, Yorks, England, 11th August, 1917.

“Remembrance.”

(Inserted by his sorrowing friend E. Farrell)

(*Warnambool Standard*, Victoria – 28 August, 1917)

YOUNG AVIATOR KILLED

Mr W. Browning, of 749 Rathdown street, North Carlton, has been notified that his son, Lieut. Oakley A. Browning, of the Royal Flying Corps, was killed in an aeroplane accident at Catterick, England, on August 11. The young soldier enlisted in the Light Horse, and saw active service in Egypt and France. Later he was transferred to England, where he received his commission in the Royal Flying Corps.

(*The Herald*, Melbourne, Victoria – 25 August, 1917) & (*The Express and Telegraph*, Adelaide, South Australia – 30 August, 1917) & (*The Advertiser*, Adelaide, South Australia – 31 August, 1917)

THE LATE LIEUTENANT BROWNING

Mr W. Browning, of North Carlton, Victoria, has been notified that his son, Lieutenant Oakley A. Browning, of the Royal Flying Corps, was killed in an aeroplane accident at Catterick, England, on August 11. He enlisted in the Light Horse in South Australia, and saw active service in Egypt and France. He was transferred to England, where he received his commission in the Royal Flying Corps.

(*Chronicle*, Adelaide, South Australia – 8 September, 1917)

BEREAVEMENT CARDS

BROWNING – Mr W. BROWNING and Family, 749 Rathdowne street, North Carlton, desire to sincerely THANK their friends and relations for expressions of sympathy in telegrams, letters, cards, visits, &c., in their sad bereavement, the loss of their dearly loves son and brother, Lieutenant Oakley A. Browning, Royal Flying Corps, killed in aeroplane accident August 11, 1917, Catterick, England.

(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – 4 October, 1917)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

BROWNING – In memory of my dear friend, Lieutenant Oakley A. Browning, R.F.C., accidentally killed in an aeroplane accident, Catterick, Yorkshire, England, August 11, 1917.

Remembrance.

-("Ene.")

(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – 10 August, 1918)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

BROWNING – In sad and loving remembrance of Lieutenant Oakley A. Browning, Royal Flying Corps, killed in aeroplane collision, Catterick, England, 11th August, 1917.

For God, King, and country.

-Inserted by his father, brothers and sisters).

(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – 12 August, 1918)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

BROWNING – In sad and loving remembrance of Lieutenant Oakley A. Browning, Royal Flying Corps, killed in aeroplane collision, Catterick, England, 11th August, 1917. For God, King, and country.

-Inserted by his father, brothers and sisters).

(The Age, Melbourne, Victoria – 12 August, 1918)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

BROWNING – In loving memory of Flight-Lieutenant Oakley A. Browning, Royal Flying Corps, killed in aeroplane collision, Catterick, England, 11th August, 1917. (Inserted by his loving father, brothers and sisters).

(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – 11 August, 1919)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

BROWNING – In loving memory of our son and brother, Lieutenant Oakley Alsop Browning, Royal Flying Corps, killed in aeroplane collision, Catterick, England, 11th August, 1917.

For God, King, and country.

-Inserted by his loving father, stepmother, brothers and sisters).

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 11 August, 1920)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

BROWNING – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Lieutenant Oakley A. Browning, Royal Flying Corps, killed in aeroplane collision, Catterick, England, 11th August, 1917.

Fondly loved

-Inserted by his father, stepmother, brothers and sisters).

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 11 August, 1921)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

BROWNING – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Lieut. Oakley Alsop, Royal Flying Corps, killed in aeroplane collision at Catterick, England, 11th August, 1917.

For God, King, and country

-Inserted by his father, step-mother, brothers and sisters).

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 11 August, 1922)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

BROWNING – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Lieut. Oakley Alsop, Royal Flying Corps, killed in aeroplane collision at Catterick, England, August 15, 1917.

For God, King, and country

-Inserted by his father, step-mother, brothers and sisters).

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 15 August, 1923)

Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstones

The Defence Department, in 1920/21, contacted the next of kin of the deceased World War 1 soldiers to see if they wanted to include a personal inscription on the permanent headstone. Space was reserved for 66 letters only (with the space between any two words to be counted as an additional letter) & the rate per letter was around 3 ½ d (subject to fluctuation).

The expense in connection for the erection of permanent headstones over the graves of fallen soldiers was borne by the Australian Government.

(Information obtained from letters sent to next of kin in 1921)

Second Lieutenant Oakley Alsop Browning does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

For God, King And Country

Catterick Cemetery, Catterick, North Yorkshire, England

Catterick Cemetery belongs to the Parish Council and contains graves of both World Wars. The majority of the 1939-1945 War graves are grouped together in the Church of England section in Rows M and O. Most of the airmen buried here came from the R.A.F. Aerodrome at Catterick, which was situated on the outskirts of the village (Catterick Military Cemetery at Hipswell was used for the burial of soldiers from the military camp nearby).

There are 52 Commonwealth War Graves in the cemetery – 10 from World War 1 & 42 from World War 2.

(Information from CWGC)



Catterick Cemetery *(Photo by Dimitrios Corcodilos – Find a Grave)*



Catterick Cemetery (Photos by Dimitrios Corcodilos – Find a Grave)



Photo of Second Lieutenant Oakley Alsop Browning's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Catterick Cemetery, Catterick, North Yorkshire, England.

Note : Photo was taken in September, 2013. Since this photo was taken Second Lieutenant Browning has had a new headstone with a different emblem.



(Photo by Berkeley)

Photo of Second Lieutenant Oakley Alsop Browning's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone taken in December, 2016.



(Photo by Dimitrios Corcodilos – Find a Grave)