

# **St. Michael & All Angels Churchyard, Figheldean, Wiltshire**

## **War Grave**



*Lest We Forget*

## **World War 1**



**SECOND LIEUTENANT**

**L. MORRISON**

**ROYAL FLYING CORPS**

**28TH JULY, 1917 Age 24**

## Lindsay MORRISON

Lindsay Morrison was born in 1893 at Bairnsdale, Victoria to parents James Alexander Morrison & Edith Morrison (nee Macarthur).

Lindsay Morrison attended Melbourne Grammar School in 1910 & 1911. He volunteered with Melbourne Grammar School Cadets for 1 year.

Lindsay Morrison was a 22 year old, single, Grazier from Turnbull Street, Bairnsdale, Victoria when he enlisted on 11th June, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 8161 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr James Morrison, of Turnbull Street, Bairnsdale, Victoria.

Private Lindsay Morrison was posted to A.I.F. for recruit training on 11th June, 1915. He was transferred to 8th Reinforcements of 7th Battalion on 18th June, 1915. Private Lindsay Morrison was transferred to 17th Battery, 6th Field Artillery Brigade on 9th October, 1915 & appointed Sergeant on 1st November, 1915.

Sergeant Lindsay Morrison embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Botanist* (A59) on 24th November, 1915 with the 6th Field Artillery Brigade, 17th Battery & disembarked at Suez on 21st December, 1915 & proceeded to join M.E.F. (Mediterranean Expeditionary Force).

Sergeant Lindsay Morrison reverted to the rank of Corporal at his own request at Tura on 29th December, 1915.

Corporal Lindsay Morrison embarked for overseas to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force) from Alexandria on H.T. *Arcadian* on 17th March, 1916 & disembarked at Marseilles, France on 23rd March, 1916.

Corporal Lindsay Morrison was promoted to Temporary Sergeant while in France on 18th July, 1916.

Temporary Sergeant Lindsay Morrison was confirmed in the rank of Sergeant on 21st August, 1916.

Sergeant Lindsay Morrison proceeded to join R.F.C. (Royal Flying Corps) Officers Cadet School at Bucks, England on 9th November, 1916.

Sergeant Lindsay Morrison was on command at Royal Flying Corps Brasenose College on 26th January, 1917 & taken on strength with effect from that date.

Sergeant Lindsay Morrison, 17th Battery, 6th Field Artillery Brigade, was discharged from the Australian Imperial Force on 16th March, 1917 in London, England in consequence of being appointed to a commission in the Royal Flying Corps. His military character was recorded as "Very Good during his one year and 279 days Service."

Sergeant Lindsay Morrison signed for receipt of his "Parchment Certificate of Discharge" on 25th May, 1917 which had been sent to Valley of Rocks Hotel, Lynton, North Devon, England.

Cadet Lindsay Morrison was officially a Second Lieutenant (on probation) from 17th March, 1917.

From *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.*

*Lindsay Morrison*

## From *The Old Melburnians Magazine of the Melbourne Grammar School - 1918*

### Letters from O.M.'s

LINDSAY MORRISON, who has gained his commission in the Royal Flying Corps, writes: "I am as fat as a seal, and appear to be growing fatter very day. When I last wrote I was in a position just outside a fairly large town in Belgium, where it was nice and quiet. A few days ago we were taken back for a rest, and are still enjoying it. This has been the best rest camp I have had yet, as there has been nothing to do except watering and exercising the horses and a few odd necessary things. We had a two days' sports meeting, and it went off very successfully; indeed, the only thing that damped our ardour was the rain, which made everything sloppy and wet. The only thing I competed in was kicking the football, in which I managed to get second. I am getting too old and stiff for running now. Our battery has played a couple of games of football, and was successful in winning them. To-morrow afternoon we are playing another for the championship of the brigade, and are very confident of winning. It has been raining here for a couple of days, and the mud is knee deep round the horse lines at present. Broadmeadows cannot hold a light to it in that respect. It is now definite that we will remain here for the winter, as we have all been issued two blankets each, and also warm underclothing, and the bulk of us are getting jack boots. They were applying for twenty-six men from the 2nd Australian Division to study for commissions as observers or pilots in the Royal Flying Corps. I did not intend putting in, but about half an hour before the application closed I was feeling pretty sick of everybody and everything, so on the off chance I wrote mine out, and the upshot of it was that I was examined by two officers of the R.F.C., and was the second one in the twenty-six selected out of 600 applicants. If my transfer goes through, as I expect it to, I will shortly commence a four months' course of instruction in England, and will, if I show ordinary common sense, receive a commission at the end of that time. The thing that got me in was my education, having passed the Senior Public in mathematics. After I had been selected my O.C. said that he wished I had not put in for it, as I stood a very good chance of getting a commission in the artillery here. If I had known that a little earlier I would have withdrawn, but anyhow the R.F.C. is a first class opportunity."

Second Lieutenant Lindsay Morrison was attached to No. 8 Training Squadron, Royal Flying Corps at Netheravon, Wiltshire, England.

On 28th July, 1917 Second Lieutenant Lindsay Morrison was flying a Farman (Maurice) S.11 Shorthorn A. 7003 from Netheravon Aerodrome on a solo flight when he turned to the left with the right wing down the plane stalled at 50 feet & side slipped into the ground.



**Farman (Maurice) S.11 Shorthorn**

Second Lieutenant Lindsay Morrison died on 28th July, 1917 at Netheravon Aerodrome, Wiltshire, England as a result of an aeroplane accident.

A death for Lindsay Morrison, aged 24, was registered in the September quarter, 1917 in the district of Amesbury, Wiltshire, England.

Coroner's Inquest held at Larkhill on 3rd August, 1917:

*The inquest was held on Monday, the victim of the flying mishap being Second-Lieutenant Lindsay Morrison, of the R.F.C., aged 24, his home being in Victoria.*

*Second-Lieut. Cameron said he started Morrison on his second solo flight on Saturday. He described the cause of the accident to a side-slip of the machine, due to one of the wings being down. The machine came to the ground about half a mile from where it started. He had been for a flight with Morrison just before, and considered him to be quite a good pupil.*

*In reply to the Foreman, Lieut. Cameron said he went to the spot and found Morrison still alive, though seriously injured.*

*Major Atkinson gave similar evidence. He thought the accident was caused by Morrison trying to turn to the left when he had his right wing down. This would cause a side-slip, and the machine certainly did side-slip.*

*Capt. Moore, R.A.M.C., said he went to the scene of the accident just after it happened. Morrison was brought to the hospital and died within an hour. Death was due to fracture of the base of the skull and other injuries.*

*The jury returned a verdict in accordance with the medical evidence.*

*(Extract published with kind permission from [Salisbury Inquests](#))*

Second Lieutenant Lindsay Morrison was buried in St. Michael and All Angels Churchyard, Figheldean, Wiltshire, England and has a Private Headstone. His death is still acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Lindsay Morrison requested in his Will, dated \_\_\_ November, 1915, that he bequeath al his real & personal estate to his father, James Alexander Morrison, of Bairnsdale, whom he also appointed as Executor.

Second Lieutenant Lindsay Morrison was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal due to his service in the Australian Imperial Force. In communications from the Department of Defence, Australian Imperial Force to The Secretary, Air Ministry, London, England on 12th September, 1921, Base Records advised that the 1914/15 Star would be administered by the Department of Defence, Australia with the other two medals being administered by the Air Ministry.

A letter was sent to Base Records, Melbourne on 13th February, 1922 from E. M. Morrison which reads: *Dear Sir, My mother wrote to the Argus & signed herself "Mother of deceased soldier" in which she stated that she had no reply to any of four letters written you in regard to war medals. She wrote on two occasions without reply & I then sent two letters but received no acknowledgment. It is now many months since the last was written as it seemed quite hopeless and a waste of time. A statement has now appeared in the "Argus" that if her statement is genuine that case will be enquired into. That gives me hope to write once again.*

*The medals she desires are those relating to my late brother whose particulars were: No. 8161 Sergeant Morrison Lindsay, 17th Battery 6th F.A.B. 2 Div. A.I.F.*

*He was transferred from the A.I.F. to the R.F.C. at the end of 1916 or beginning of 1917 and met his death in that force.*

*My mother in the letters mentioned applied for ay medals that might be due to him. He would have been entitled to the 1915 star, which she desires to claim as well as the Memorial Medal & Mother's badge.*

*I should be glad if you would let me know if any or all of these are available.*

Base Records replied to Mrs J. A. Morrison on 16th February, 1922 & the letter reads: *"I am in receipt of your communication of the 13th February, concerning the affairs of your son, who served in the Australian Imperial Force as No. 8161 Sergeant L. MORRISON, 6th Field Artillery Briagde, and have to say that the abovequoted communication is the first that has been received in this office about this soldier. I have also had extensive enquiries made in the other Branches of the Department at Victoria Barracks, and they equally disclaim any knowledge of previous letters.*

*This Branch, since it was established 7 ½ years ago, has not been accused of the discourtesy of failing to reply to communication received, or for that matter, of refusing to do anything within its jurisdiction on behalf of the relatives of those who have served, so that, in the circumstances, your strictures in the Press are unwarranted. As a matter of fact, this office has a reputation for promptitude and courtesy, of which it is not only proud but very jealous, and no apparent wrong has yet been brought to notice that we have not done our best to rectify.*

*As regards the case of your son, of whose regrettable loss we have unfortunately no official knowledge, I have to say that in the matter of war medals, he is entitled, so far as his service in the A.I.F. is concerned, to the 1914/15 Star only, the other items being issuable by his Imperial Army Unit. We communicated with the Air Ministry, London, on the subject of the remaining medals on 12th September, 1921, but so far have not received their acknowledgment. If no reply is to hand by the next English mail, a reminder will be sent to the Air Ministry.*

*Pending the receipt of the Air Ministry's reply on the subject of medals, we were holding the 1914/15 Star until we were quite certain as to who would administer it. I am sending the Star, however, per separate registered post, but only, of course, on the distinct understanding that, should the Air Ministry decide to issue the Star, it will be returned to this Office.....I also attach blank form for the Female Relatives Badge in case you have not already received one – the "In Memoriam" Badge is only for those who gave their lives whilst serving in the Australian Imperial Force."*

A reply letter was sent to Base Records, dated 21st February, 1922, from E. M. Morrison, son of Mrs J. A. Morrison, which reads in part: *"....A member of the family had a slight recollection that you answered one of the four letters sent you inquiring for medals & a diligent search revealed a post card dated 13/11/20 acknowledging an enquiry.....I offer an apology for stating in the press & also to you that you failed to acknowledge any of the four letters. There only remain three unacknowledged. You are obviously building your 'reputation for promptitude and courtesy' on thin air. Your system is certainly one to be "proud & jealous" of. Perhaps a further search will reveal our letter of 10/11/20 and a little more diligence might bring to light the other three letters. Fifteen months ago you advise that the application would receive attention. What promptitude! "Your strictures in the Press are unwarranted" Ye Gods ! I shall write again to the Press & apologise for stating that you never acknowledged any of the letters for one was acknowledged over a year ago. I shall give all the facts enclosing your last letter. Why do we write to the Press? How else can the military be brought to a sense of their duty. It was successful in this case in a few days, whereas through the ordinary channels to you it takes as many years. Perhaps many others will receive a little "promptitude & courtesy" through that letter. I trust that now you have really taken notice that you will be able to give a little attention to the remaining medals."*

Base Records advised Mrs J. A. Morrison, mother of the late Second Lieutenant Lindsay Morrison, on 21st March, 1922, that communication had been received from the Director of Personal Services to the effect that the British War Medal and Victory Medal issued in respect of her son, the late Second Lieutenant Lindsay Morrison, Royal Flying Corps (late No. 8161 Sergeant, 6th Field Artillery Brigade, A.I.F) will be administered by the Secretary, War Office, London, England, to whom any further communication on the subject should be addressed.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Second Lieutenant Lindsay Morrison, of Royal Flying Corps. No family details are listed.

Second Lieutenant Lindsay Morrison is not commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia as he was not a member of the Australian Armed Forces at the time of his death.

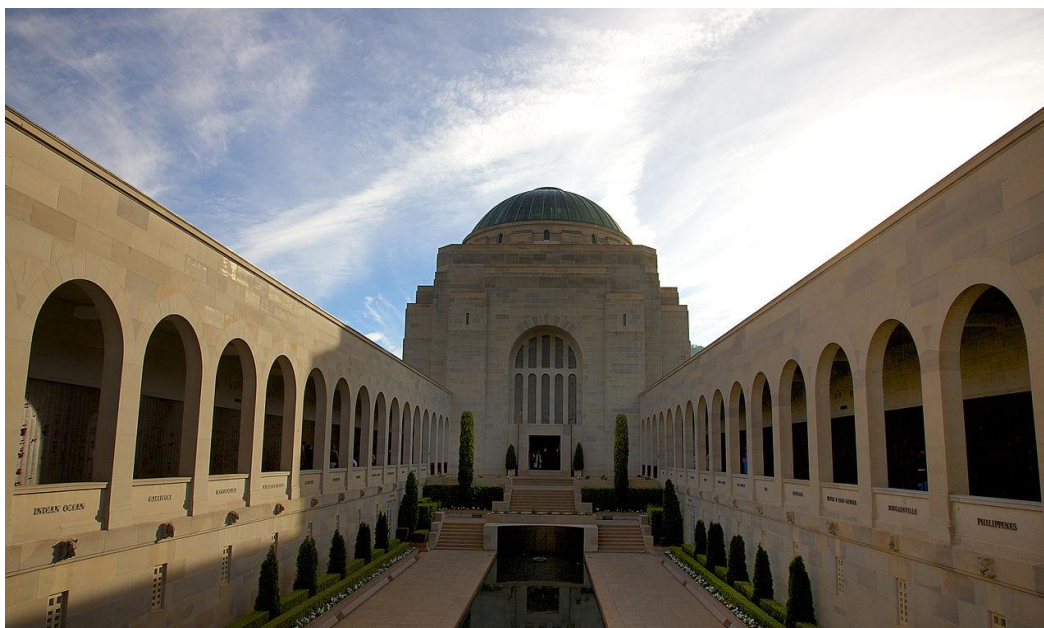


*Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia*

Second Lieutenant Lindsay Morrison is now\*\*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.

*(Note: This research was submitted to The Australian War Memorial in January, 2018 for the AWM to investigate the eligibility of Second Lieutenant Lindsay Morrison being included on the Australian War Memorial's Commemorative Roll.)*

*(\*\*Update: The Australian War Memorial advised me in August, 2019 that Second Lieutenant Lindsay Morrison's name has been approved by the Memorial's Director to be added to the Commemorative Roll.)*



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

L. Morrison is remembered on the Shire of Bairnsdale Roll of Honour, located in the East Gippsland Historical Society Museum, 40 Macarthur Street, Bairnsdale, Victoria.



**Shire of Bairnsdale Roll of Honour** *(Photos from Monument Australia – Chris McLaughlin)*



Shire of Bairnsdale Roll of Honour

L. Morrison is remembered on the Melbourne Grammar School Honour Roll, located in Melbourne Grammar School, Domain Road, Melbourne, Victoria.



**Melbourne Grammar School Honour Roll** (Photos from Monument Australia – Chris McLaughlin)





(43 pages of Sergeant Lindsay Morrison's Service records with the Australian Imperial Force are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

*Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial (First World War Embarkation Roll) & National Archives*



**From The Old Melburnians Magazine of the Melbourne Grammar School - 1918**

*Commissions and Honors*

*LINDSAY MORRISON – 2nd Lieut., R.F.C.*

**From The Old Melburnians Magazine of the Melbourne Grammar School - 16th May, 1918:**

*F. G. SUTTON writes from No. 2 Auxiliary School of Aerial Gunnery, Royal Flying Corps, Turnberry : "In company with a number of Australians I left France to join the Royal Flying Corps. About 150 came across, and of that number I'm sure a good ten per cent were Victorian public school boys, and of that percentage at least 75 per cent were O.M.'s. At Denham, where we first went for our training, chiefly the manual of military law and King's regulations, I ran across J. K. FINLAY, R. H. RICHARDSON, LINDSAY MORRISON, STAN GARDINER, C. E. HOWELL and some other O.M.'s whose names I have forgotten for the moment.*

*.....*

*LINDSAY MORRISON was killed on a 'rumpity' after a long spell following appendicitis.*

*(Note: O.M. – "Old Melburnians"*

**From The Old Melburnians Magazine of the Melbourne Grammar School - 1918**

*Our Honored Dead*

*LINDSAY MORRISON                      Killed as result of Accident                      28th July, 1917*

**From The Old Melburnians Magazine of the Melbourne Grammar School - 1918**

*Obituary Notices*

*LINDSAY MORRISON who was killed on 28th July 1917 as the result of an aeroplane accident at Netheravon in England was the son of Mr J. A. Morrison of Bairnsdale. He was born in 1893 and was at the School in 1910-11. On leaving School he went into the country and was farming at Bairnsdale when he enlisted. He joined the artillery of the 2nd Australian Division, and while in France applied for and obtained a commission in the Royal Flying Corps. The story of his death is told in the following letter to his father: "Several of Lin.'s friends gave me full details of the accident. It appears he had been flying with a pilot and learning the art, and got on very quickly, so he went up by himself last week and did a splendid flight and was very proud of it. He got on much better than his pals, and they used to chaff him about it. They said he did not know what nerves were. On Saturday afternoon he started off full of confidence, but had only gone a few hundred yards, and was not more than 25 feet high, when the tail of the machine dropped and it appears he could not right it, and crashed to the ground. He became unconscious instantaneously, and lingered on for an hour without regaining consciousness. The Red Cross fellows said -he must have been wonderfully strong, for they don't know how he lived for an hour. The funeral took place on Tuesday afternoon at 2 o'clock. An Australian firing party came over from Lark Hill. Eight of Lin.'s special pals acted as pall-bearers, and about thirty other officers, including the C.O. and Adjutant, attended. There were also about 60 British soldiers."*





**Second Lieutenant Lindsay Morrison**



### **Newspaper Notices**

At the conclusion of the Bairnsdale v Sale football match, on Saturday last, the president of the Bairnsdale's club, Mr F. J. Kyle, on behalf of the team and members made a short reference to the departure of Mr Lindsay Morrison for active service, and took the occasion of wishing him God-speed and a safe return. Three hearty cheers were then given by the team for their departing comrade.

*(Bairnsdale Advertiser and Tambo and Omeo Chronicle, Victoria – 2 June, 1915)*

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### **PERSONAL**

Sergt. Lindsay Morrison, son of J. A. Morrison, Bairnsdale, has obtained a commission in the Royal Flying Corps.

*(Gippsland Times, Victoria – 12 April, 1917)*

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Word has been received that Sergt. Lindsay Morrison, son of Mr and Mrs J. A. Morrison, of Bairnsdale, has received a commission as Lieutenant with the Royal Flying Corps. He, who had previously seen active service with the guns in France, is now in a training school in England.

*(Every Week, Bairnsdale, Victoria – 12 April, 1917)*

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## DEATH

MORRISON – On the 28th July, 1917, at Netheravon, England (result of aeroplane accident), Lindsay, lieutenant in Royal Flying Corps, dearly beloved third son of J. A. and Edith Morrison, Bairnsdale, aged 24 years and 6 months.

*(Bairnsdale Advertiser and Tambo and Omeo Chronicle, Victoria – 1 August, 1917) &*

*(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – 1 August, 1917)*

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Another Bairnsdale soldier has laid down his life for his country. On Monday a cablegram was received stating that Lieut. Lindsay Morrison, son of Mr and Mrs J.A. Morrison, Bairnsdale, had died on Saturday at Netheravon, England, as the result of an aeroplane accident. The young soldier who was 24 years of age, enlisted in May, 1915, and was attached to the artillery in France, where he was promoted to the rank of sergeant. While serving in this capacity he qualified for the Royal Flying Corps and went to England to be schooled in aircraft. In April last he was seized with appendicitis, and on recovering went to Scotland in June last for a holiday trip. The cablegram did not state whether the accident which ended his career occurred when he was flying or in the aerodrome. Lieut. Morrison was a young man of good attainments, and noted for his industry and chivalry. His untimely death will be deplored by all his comrades and friends, with whom he was popular. He took an active interest in sport, particularly rowing and football, being a member of the local clubs to which he gave good service.

*(Bairnsdale Advertiser and Tambo and Omeo Chronicle, Victoria – 1 August, 1917)*

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We are sorry to say that news has been received of the death in England of Lindsay Morrison, of the Flying Corps, son of Mr J. A. Morrison, of Bairnsdale.

*(Gippsland Mercury, Victoria – 7 August, 1917)*

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## BAIRNSDALE'S HONOR ROLL

Fifty-seven members of the Bairnsdale Rowing Club have enlisted for active service, and out of that number it is to be regretted, 12 have been killed, including:

Major C. F. D. Fethers, Lieutenant Lindsay Morrison, Sergeant W. Wallace.....

*(Winner, Melbourne, Victoria – 14 November, 1917)*

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**St. Michael and All Angels Churchyard, Figcheldean, Wiltshire, England**

St. Michael and All Angels Churchyard, Figcheldean contains 17 Commonwealth War Graves – 16 from World War 1 & 1 from World War 2.



**St. Michael and All Angels Church, Figcheldean** (Photo above by Mike Searle – below from CWGC)





St. Michael and All Angels Church, Figheldean (Photos by Anthony Bysouth)



Photo of Second Lieutenant Lindsay Morrison's Private Headstone in St. Michael and All Angels Churchyard, Figcheldean, Wiltshire, England.



*(Photo courtesy of Anthony Bysouth)*

*In Loving Memory Of*  
**LINDSAY MORRISON Sec. Lieut. R.F.C.**  
*Third Dearly Loved Son Of*  
*James A. and Edith Morrison*  
*Of Bairnsdale, Victoria, Australia.*  
*Died On Duty 28TH July 1917*  
*Aged 24 Years*