

**St. Saviour's Church Cemetery,
Tetbury, Gloucestershire**

War Grave



Lest We Forget

World War 1



SECOND LIEUTENANT

G. D. PERRY

AUSTRALIAN FLYING CORPS

29TH JUNE, 1918 Age 23

Beloved Younger Son Of

G. H. And M. Perry

Marrickville, Sydney

Gilbert Douglas PERRY

Gilbert Douglas Perry was born in 1894 at Petersham, Sydney, NSW to parents Gilbert H. & Mary Ann E. Perry (nee Raves).

Gilbert Douglas Perry was a 20 year old, single, Civil Engineer & Surveyor from "City Pharmacy", Marrickville Road, Marrickville, Sydney when he enlisted on 9th March, 1915 with the 4th Light Horse Brigade, 4th Signal Troop of the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 1010 & his religion was Congregational. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr H. Perry of "City Pharmacy", Marrickville Road, Marrickville, Sydney, NSW. As Gilbert Perry was under the age of 21, each required his parents' consent to enlist in the Australia Imperial Force for active service abroad. Mr G. H. Perry signed his consent on 8th May, 1915.

Sapper Gilbert Douglas Perry was posted to 4th Signal Troop on 10th March, 1915.

Sapper Gilbert Douglas Perry embarked from Sydney on HMAT *Ajana* (A31) on 31st May, 1915 & disembarked at Egypt on 17th July, 1915.

Sapper Gilbert Douglas Perry was transferred to 2nd Division Signal Company on 2nd September, 1915.

Sapper Gilbert Douglas Perry embarked on H.T. *Merville* for overseas from Base Details on 19th September, 1915.

Sapper Gilbert Douglas Perry was admitted to 5th Field Ambulance at Anzac on 28th October, 1915 with Influenza (Tonsillitis). He was transferred to 1st Australian Casualty Clearing Station on 1st November, 1915 & admitted with Diphtheria. Sapper Perry was transferred to Hospital Ship *Nevasa* on 2nd November, 1915 & then transferred to 15th General Hospital at Alexandria on 7th November, 1915. Sapper Perry was transferred on 28th November, 1915 to Rasel Tin Convalescent Hospital at Alexandria with Diphtheria. Sapper Gilbert Douglas Perry rejoined his Unit from Overseas on 27th January, 1916.

Sapper Gilbert Douglas Perry was transferred to 4th Division Signal Company on 6th March, 1916 & taken on strength on 9th March, 1916 at Moascar.

Sapper Gilbert Douglas Perry was transferred to 13th Field Company, Australian Engineers on 13th May, 1916 at Serapeum.

Sapper Gilbert Douglas Perry embarked for overseas from Alexandria on 6th June, 1916 on *Oriana* to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force). He disembarked at Marseilles, France on 13th June, 1916.

Sapper Gilbert Douglas Perry was sent sick to Hospital while in France on 2nd September, 1916. He was admitted to 3rd Canadian Stationary Hospital at Boulogne on 3rd September, 1916 with Myalgia. He was discharged from Hospital on 15th September, 1916 & transferred to Australian General Base Depot at Etaples on 4th October, 1916. Sapper Perry was retaken on strength in the field with his Unit on 18th October, 1916.

Sapper Gilbert Douglas Perry was written up for a crime while in France – "Disobedience of orders in that he disobeyed Censorship Regulations" and "in a certificate signed by him knowingly making a false statement" He was awarded 21 days Field Punishment No. 2 on 6th April, 1917.

Sapper Gilbert Douglas Perry was transferred to Royal Flying Corps from 13th Flying Corps Engineers on 26th October, 1917.

Sapper Gilbert Douglas Perry was taken on strength of Australian Flying Corps & mustered as 2nd A.M. (Air Mechanic) on 2nd November, 1917.

Sapper Gilbert Douglas Perry joined No. 1 R.F.C. (Royal Flying Corps) School of Military Aeronautics at Reading, Berkshire, England on 2nd November, 1917 & was appointed Cadet.

2 Air Mechanic (Cadet) Gilbert Douglas Perry was on command at No. 1 Royal Flying Corps School of Military Aeronautics at Reading, Berkshire, England on 2nd November, 1917.

2 Air Mechanic (Cadet) Gilbert Douglas Perry was attached for elementary instruction in Aviation on 18th January, 1918.

2 Air Mechanic Gilbert Douglas Perry was appointed Flying Officer (Pilot) & to be Second Lieutenant in A.I.F. on 25th May, 1918.

Second Lieutenant Gilbert Douglas Perry was flying solo, a Sopwith Camel C.103 on 21st June, 1918 to set up for "practising diving preparatory to firing on Aerodrome Target." The plane crashed at 11.15 am. at Minchinhampton Aerodrome.

Second Lieutenant Gilbert Douglas Perry was attached to 5th Training Squadron from Cottage Hospital for rations only on 21st June, 1918.

Second Lieutenant Gilbert Douglas Perry was admitted to Tetbury Cottage Hospital, Gloucestershire, England on 21st June, 1918 seriously injured from Aeroplane accident at Minchinhampton.

A Court of Inquiry was held at Minchinhampton on 21st June, 1918 for the purpose of inquiring into the circumstances connected with the accident of Second Lieutenant G. D. Perry, Australian Flying Corps which occurred on 21st June, 1918. Second Lieutenant G. D. Perry was unable to give evidence as he was in Hospital seriously injured from the crash – "right side of face dinged in and upper lip cut, left leg broken above the ankle." The Court of Inquiry gathered the following information – Sopwith Camel C103 took off at 10.50 am with weather conditions good with a light westerly wind. The plane & engine were fit for flight. Second Lieutenant G. D. Perry had flown solo in a Sopwith Camel for 3 hours & 15mins. (A Sopwith Pup solo for 10 hours & 25 minutes; Avro – Dual for 14 hours & 55 minutes & Solo for 13 hours 35 minutes; D.H. 6 - Dual for 8 hours 30 minutes.) The Sopwith Camel was a total write off & the engine was seriously damaged.

Evidence from the Court of Inquiry:

1st Witness. Lieut S.H.Harper states:-

I am Acting Flight Commander "A" Flight 5 (T) S. A.F.C. and 2/Lieut's G.D.PERRY'S Instructor.

At about 11.15 a.m. on 21.6.18. I was standing on the Tarmac when I saw a Camel diving at the Aerodrome Target at approximately 150.M.P.H.

When at about 500 feet the Pilot appeared to pull out too suddenly from the dive. After that the machine zoomed and I observed right hand plane fold in two. Shortly afterwards the right hand top plane followed. The machine then started to spin slowly to the right, finally crashing into a tree on the Eastern side of the Aerodrome.

(Sgd) S.H.Harper. Lieutenant.

2nd Witness. Lieut. W.A.Robertson . States:-

I am Acting Flight Commander "B" Flight 5 (T) S. A.F.C.

On the morning of the 21st inst. I observed a Camel diving at the Aerodrome target. I estimated speed of the dive at 150 M.P.H. At the end of the dive the Pilot appeared to me to pull the machine straight up which I saw the right hand bottom plane buckle in the centre, afterwards which the top plane went and the machine went into a spin and crashed.

(Sgd) W.A.Robertson. Lieutenant.

3rd Witness. 2/Lieut R.L.Cummings states:-

I am an Assistant Instructor on 5 (T) S.AFC. Whilst instructing a pupil on an Avro I observed a Camel about 200 feet up spinning slowly. Finally it hit a tree with the engine, so breaking its fall to the ground. When first observed both right hand planes were broken off but the left hand planes were correct.

(Sgd) R.L.Cummings. 2/Lieutenant.

4th Witness. 2/AM No.Aus 1105. Tottenham.J.W. states:-

I am a fitter in "C" Flight 5 (T) S.AFC. and was in charge of 130 Clerget engine in Sop Camel C103 I examined the engine at 9 a.m. 21.6.18. and found it correct.

(Sgd) J.W.Tottenham. 2nd AM.No.1105.

5th Witness. 1/AM No.Aus.1131. Rigby. states:-

I am rigger in "C" Flight. I examined rigging of C103 (Sop Camel) this morning prior to machine being taken up by 2/Lieut Perry, and found rigging correct.

(Sgd) C.A.Rigby. No.1131.1st AM.

6th Witness. Lieut A.Hazelwood. states:-

I am Assistant Instructor in 6 (T) S. AFC. I arrived at the scene of the crash immediately after the machine hit the ground. The machine had both wings crashed and clear.

The lower part of the engine had been forced backwards and upwards. The Induction pipes, by the latter movement had torn the dashboard and had broken the rudder post, causing the pilot's leg to be broken. The fuselage had snapped at the rear of the pilot's seat. The Pilot was still half in the seat, but was lying over the left side with his head almost on the ground. His feet were still in the leathers on the rudder bar. He was extricated very easily, his feet being got clear by straightening a few pipes.

(Sgd) A.Hazelwood. Lieutenant.

7th Witness. Cpl.No.Aus 713 Hall. D.W. states:-

I am the Motor Transport Minchinhampton Station A.F.C. I went with the ambulance to the scene of the crash. I was with Lieut Hazelwood, and assisted him to lift Lieut. Perry clear of the debris.

I have read his statement regarding the position of the machine and pilot, and concur with it in its entirety.

(Sgd) D.W.Hall. 713 Cpl.

8th Witness. Capt. Ley States:-

I am Station Medical Officer for Minchinhampton Aerodrome. I saw 2/Lieut. G.D.Perry immediately after he was removed from the debris.

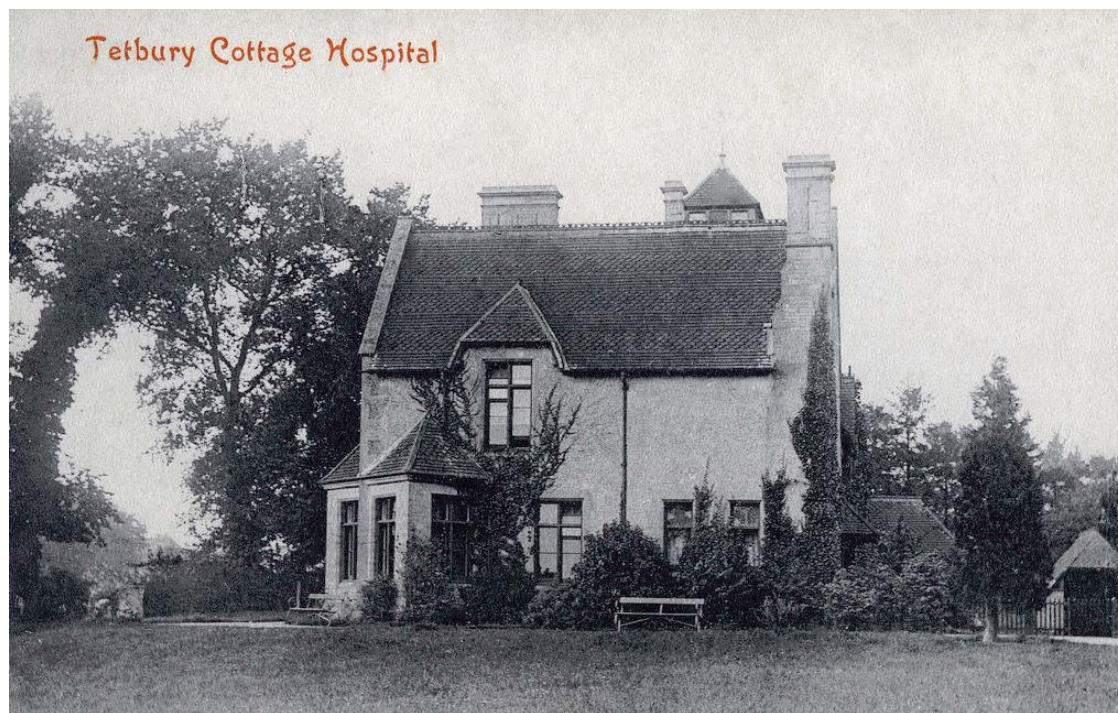
The right side of his face was dinged in, and the upper lip was cut. His left leg was broken above the ankle.

Owing to the patient being in a condition which necessitated his immediate removal to Hospital I only gave him a cursory examination, and sent him straight to hospital.

(Sgd) M.Ley. Captain.

The Court of Inquiry found "the cause of the accident was in our opinion bad piloting in that /Lieut. Perry G.D. pulled machine out of a steep drive too roughly thereby causing undue strain and so breaking right hand planes." The Officer Commanding reported "I concur in the above finding. This officer was on duty at the time and to blame for the accident as he put too greater strain on the machine by pulling it suddenly out of a steep drive."

Second Lieutenant Gilbert Douglas Perry died on evening of 29th June, 1918 at Tetbury Cottage Hospital, Gloucestershire, England as a result of an aeroplane accident & Pneumonia.



A death for Gilbert D. Perry, aged 23, was registered in the September quarter, 1918 in the district of Tetbury, Gloucestershire, England.

Second Lieutenant Gilbert Douglas Perry was buried at 2.30 pm on 2nd July, 1918 in St. Saviour's Church Cemetery, – facing east window of Church and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. His name is listed as "Cuthbert Douglas Perry" in the Register of Burials 1873-1933 for Tetbury, Gloucestershire. From the burial report of Second Lieutenant Perry - *Coffin was good polished Elm. The deceased Officer was accorded a Military Funeral. The coffin was draped with the Australian Flag and surmounted by several beautiful wreaths. Firing Party, Bugler and Pallbearers were in attendance. The following Officers of the A.F.C. followed the remains to the Cemetery.*

Major R. W. Brown, Lieut. Leslie, W.C., Lieut. J. Darcy, Lieut. J. W. Barker and Lieut. S. H. Harper.

Prior to the interment a service was held by Chaplain Durnford, C.F. A.F.C. in St. Saviour's Parish Church, Tetbury. The grave will be turfed and an oak cross erected by the A.I.F. London. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London, were represented at the funeral. Names or relatives & friends present at the funeral – UNCLE – Mr George Raves, C/O Faudels Ltd, Newgate Street, London, E.C.

Gilbert Douglas Perry requested in his Will, dated 12th July, 1917, that all his real & personal estate be bequeathed to his parents Mr & Mrs G. H. Perry, Marrickville, Sydney, NSW.

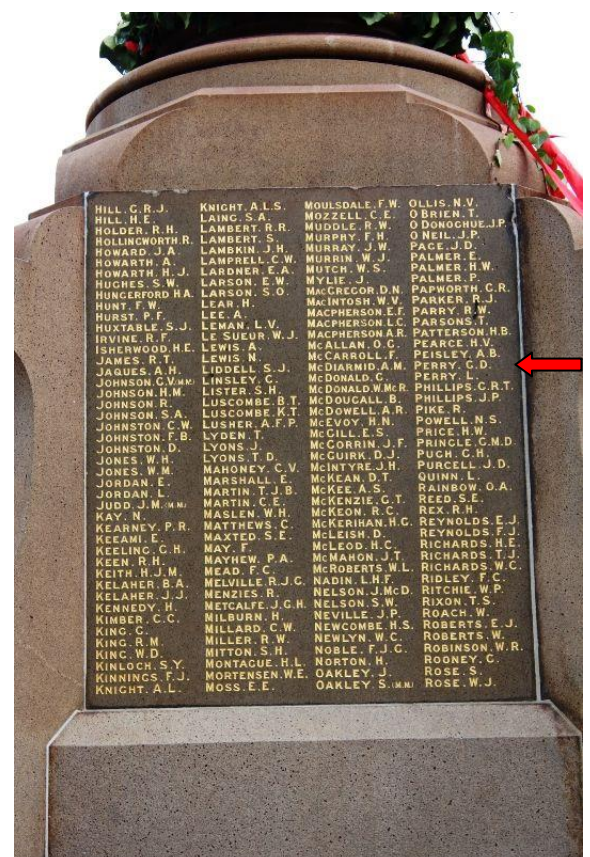
Second Lieutenant Gilbert Douglas Perry was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Second Lieutenant Perry's father - Mr G. Perry, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent September, 1921 & Plaque sent December, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Second Lieutenant Gilbert Douglas Perry, aged 23, of Australian Flying Corps. He was the son of Gilbert Henry and Mary Ann Eliza Perry, of The City Pharmacy, Marrickville, Sydney, New South Wales.

G. D. Perry is remembered on the Marrickville Soldiers' Memorial located outside the Town Hall, Marrickville Road, Marrickville, NSW.



Marrickville Soldiers' Memorial (*Register of War Memorials in NSW –Peter Levarre-Waters*)



Second Lieutenant G. D. Perry is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 187.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

Marjorie Donald Phillips, of 962 Perento Road, Belrose, Sydney, NSW, sister of the late Second Lieutenant Gilbert Douglas Perry, applied for the Gallipoli Medallion in July, 1967 on account of the service of her brother Second Lieutenant Gilbert Douglas Perry.

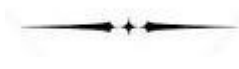
(83 pages of Second Lieutenant Gilbert Douglas Perry's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

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



[Connected to Second Lieutenant Gilbert Douglas Perry:](#)

Older brother - John Raves Stuart Perry, No. 1665, enlisted 25th January, 1915 served with 13th Battalion at Gallipoli & transferred to 45th Battalion. Wounded in action - 10th May, 1915, 27th August, 1915 & 5th April, 1918. Returned to Australia 12th May, 1918. Last rank held - Lieutenant. Died in the Lady Davidson Home, Turramurra, Sydney on 22nd January, 1925 as a result of War Service. Entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal.



Newspaper Notices

ROLL OF HONOUR

PERRY – Second Lieutenant Gilbert Douglas Perry, died June 29, 1918 (from injuries received while flying), beloved youngest son of Mr and Mrs G. H. Perry, Marrickville, and grandson of Mr and Mrs John C. Graves, Homebush.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 13 July, 1918)

427th CASUALTY LIST

NEW SOUTH WALES

DIED, CAUSE NOT STATED

2nd-Lt. GILBERT DOUGLAS PERRY, Marrickville

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 16 July, 1918)

ROLL OF HONOUR

PERRY – Died June 29, 1918 (from injuries received while flying) Second-Lieutenant Gilbert Douglas Perry, beloved youngest son of Mr and Mrs G. H. Perry, Marrickville, and grandson of Mr and Mrs John C. Graves, Homebush.

Per ardua ad astra

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 17 July, 1918)

WAR CASUALTIES

DIED OF ILLNESS

Mr and Mrs G. H. Perry, of Marrickville, have received notice of the death, on June 29, of their second son, Second-Lieutenant Gilbert Douglas Perry, from septic pneumonia, consequent on injuries received while flying. He left Australia as a sapper in May, 1915, and saw service at Gallipoli and in France. In November, 1917, he began his training for a pilot in the Australian Flying Corps, and received his commission shortly before the accident. His elder brother, Lieutenant J. R. Stuart Perry, was wounded for the third occasion at Dernancourt, on April 5, and has been invalided home.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 17 July, 1918)

ON ACTIVE SERVICE

PERRY – In memory of my dear friend, Second-Lieutenant Gilbert Douglas Perry, died June 29, 1918. Sadly missed. Inserted by Jean.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 28 June, 1919)

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 G. D. Perry does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Beloved Younger Son Of G. H. And M. Perry Marrickville, Sydney

St. Saviour's Church Cemetery, Tetbury, Gloucestershire, England

St. Saviour's Church Cemetery, Tetbury contains 16 Commonwealth War Graves – 6 are from World War 1 & 10 are from World War 2.



St. Saviour's Churchyard, Tetbury *(Photo from CWGC)*

Photo of Second Lieutenant G. D. Perry's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in St. Saviour's Church Cemetery, Tetbury, Gloucestershire, England.



(Photo by Paul Best)



St. Saviour's Church, Tetbury *(Photo by Paul Best)*