

**St. Hybald Churchyard,  
Scawby, Lincolnshire, England**

**War Grave**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**LIEUTENANT**

**P. I. RAWLINSON**

**ROYAL AIR FORCE**

**30TH NOVEMBER, 1918 Age 28**

## Percy Ivan RAWLINSON

Percy Ivan Rawlinson was born on 1st April, 1889 in Melbourne, Victoria to parents Francis Robert & Frances Curles Rawlinson (nee Glass). His birth was registered in the district of Flemington/Kensington, Victoria.

The 1912 & 1913 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Bourke, subdivision of Albion, Victoria listed Percy Ivay Rawlinson, Fitter from 152 Blyth St., Brunswick. His parents – Francis Robert, Law Clerk & Frances, Home Duties were listed at the same address.

The 1914, 1915 & 1917 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Bourke, subdivision of Brunswick North, Victoria listed Percy Ivay Rawlinson, Fitter from 152 Blyth St., Brunswick. His parents – Francis Robert, Law Clerk & Frances, Home Duties were listed at the same address.

Percy Rawlinson was a 26 year old, single, Engineer from 152 Blyth Street, Brunswick, Melbourne, Victoria when he enlisted on 8th May, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Church of England & his next of kin was listed as his father – Mr F. Rawlinson, 152 Blyth Street, Brunswick, Melbourne, Victoria. Percy Rawlinson stated on his Attestation Papers that he has served with Scottish Regiment for 5 years & had been a Piper for 2 years.

Percy Rawlinson was posted to A.I.F. Depot on 10th May, 1915 for recruit training. He was transferred to 7th Field Artillery Reinforcements, 2nd Field Artillery Brigade on 15th May, 1915 as Gunner.

Gunner Percy Rawlinson, Service number 4652, embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on RMS *Persia* on 10th August, 1915 with the 2nd Field Artillery Brigade, 7th Reinforcements.

Gunner Percy Rawlinson embarked from Alexandria on H.T. *Itonian* for the Gallipoli Peninsula (no date recorded). He was taken on strength of 2nd F.A.B. (Field Artillery Brigade) from Reinforcements on 13th October, 1915 & was temporarily posted to B.A.C. (Brigade Ammunition Column) at Gallipoli Peninsula. Gunner Rawlinson was transferred to 2nd B.A.C. from 7th Reinforcements on 13th October, 1915.

Gunner Percy Rawlinson was attached to 5th Battery, 2nd Field Brigade from 5th November, 1915.

Gunner Percy Rawlinson, of 5th Battery, 2nd Field Brigade, Australian Field Artillery, was admitted from S.S. *Ulysses* to No. 15 General Hospital at Alexandria on 22nd December, 1915 with V.H.D. (valvular disease of Heart) from M.E.F. (Mediterranean Expeditionary Force) at Gallipoli. He was discharged to duty – Class A (medically fit) on 28th December, 1915 to Mustapha.

Gunner Percy Rawlinson was posted to 23rd Battery, 2nd Field Artillery Brigade on 9th March, 1916. He was transferred to 21st Field Artillery Brigade on 15th May, 1916 from 2nd F.A.B.

Gunner Percy Rawlinson appointed Acting Bombardier from 10th June, 1916. He was appointed Temporary Bombardier the same day.

Temporary Bombardier Rawlinson reported sick on 29th August, 1916 & was evacuated to Hospital. He reverted to the rank of Gunner from 29th August, 1916 on being evacuated.

Gunner Percy Rawlinson was struck off strength of 1st Australian Divisional Base Depot at Etaples, France on 18th October, 1916 & transferred to England for training for promotion to a Commission in Flying Corps.

Gunner Percy Rawlinson was On Command for Instruction at Exeter College, England.

Gunner Percy Rawlinson was discharged from the Australian Imperial Force on 16th March, 1917 having gained a Commission in the Imperial Army.

Percy Rawlinson gained a commission in the Royal Flying Corps. His permanent home address was listed as Boisse Brae, Milboy St., St. Kilda, Victoria, Australia.

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*

.....

*Percy Rawlinson*

.....

Second Lieutenant Percy Rawlinson was appointed Flight Pilot, having passed course in Aerial Gunnery at Turnberry in June, 1917.

**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)*

Second Lieutenant Percy Rawlinson was posted to No. 33 Squadron.

Newspaper item – The Herald, Melbourne, Victoria – 19 January, 1918:

**YOUNG AVIATOR DESCRIBES HIS FLIGHT OVER GERMANY**

**BULLETS RIDDLE MACHINE**

*"I paid Germany my first visit last night," writes Flight-lieutenant Percy Rawlinson to his mother, Mrs F. Rawlinson, of 443 Barkly street, St. Kilda. He is stated to be the youngest pilot in the Royal Flying Corps.*

*"I got hurry-up from the moment I crossed the line until I returned," he continues. "You have no doubt heard of 'Archies' (anti-aircraft guns). Well, they potted at me the whole time, and 'flaming onions' (bombs loaded with phosphorus) filled the air for miles around. If they hit a 'bus they adhere, thus igniting it. I went through the lot, and, reaching my objective, dropped the bombs to good effect. I was mighty glad to get rid of them, for, with the load on board, it was hard work dodging the searchlights.*

*"On the way back an 'Archie' burst under the 'bus, nearly turning it over, and from then on I was anxious about my engine, as it appeared to be seedy. To make matters worse, a searchlight caught me from the rear, and I tried to side-step it, but could not. I called to my observer, and he opened on it with his gun. I am blessed if those Huns did not put it out, so I was awfully lucky. On meeting another, I dived into it, and they put it out too.*

*"From then on all was well, but on examining the 'bus in the shed we were surprised to find that bullets had drilled holes through the planes, one had passed through the observer's cockpit, a lump of shell had hit the petrol tank under my seat, denting it, and another had smashed a tall boom. The old 'bus had nearly been written off. My C.O. is pleased, and I am lucky to have such a fine chap over me. When you think of it, haven't I had some, joy in this war — first Gallipoli, then France, and now France again, and strafing all the time. I am a lucky hoy, and, seem to bear a charmed life. After this war I will write a book on my experiences."*

Percy Rawlinson married Murial Olive Barnard on 10th June, 1918. Their marriage was registered in June quarter, 1918 in the district of Gainsborough, Lincolnshire, England.

Lieutenant Percy Rawlinson was unfit for General Service for 4 weeks from 22nd June, 1918 but was fit for Home Service. He was not to fly above 12,000 feet.

Lieutenant Percy Rawlinson was struck off strength from No. 199 (N) Training Squadron on 7th November, 1918.

Lieutenant Percy Rawlinson died on 30th November, 1918 at The Manor, Scawby, Lincolnshire, England from Influenza (as per Commemorative Roll, Australian War Memorial).

A death for Percival I. Rawlinson, aged 28, was registered in the December quarter, 1918 in the district of Glanford Brigg, Lincolnshire, England.

Lieutenant Percy Rawlinson was buried in St. Hybald Churchyard, Scawby, Lincolnshire, England (listed by CWGC as St. Hibald) and has a Private Headstone. His death is still acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

\*\* A son – Percival Frank Rawlinson was born on 5th April, 1919 at Glanford, Brigg, Lincolnshire, England.

#### England National Probate Calendar

RAWLINSON, Percy, otherwise Percival Iven, of Melbourne, Victoria, Australia, died 30 November, 1918 at Scawby, Lincolnshire. Administration (with Will) London 2 July to Murial Olive Rawlinson, widow. Effects £283 18s. 3 d.

Base Records, Melbourne, Victoria wrote to Headquarters, 3rd District Base, Victoria Barracks, Melbourne, Victoria on 12th October, 1921 with the following: *“As this office is communicating with the Air Ministry concerning the War Medals of the late Lieutenant P. Rawlinson, Royal Air Force, (ex-No. 4652 of 2nd F.A.B., A.I.F.) I shall be glad of advice as to whether the father – Mr F, Rawlinson, “Colpetty” Abbott Street, Sandringham, is still to be recorded as next-of-kin, or, if deceased, who is to be nominated in his stead.”*

Base Records wrote to The Secretary, Air Ministry, Kingsway, London, England on 17th October, 1921 to advise *“ex-No. 462 Gunner Percy RAWLINSON, 2nd Field Artillery Brigade has by his service with the Australian Imperial Force from 10.5.15 to 16.3.17 qualified for the undermentioned war medals, viz.:- 1914/15 Star – British War Medal – Victory Medal but in consequence of his subsequent service with a commission Royal Flying Corps the 1914/15 Star will be administered by the Department of Defence, Australia, the remainder by the Air Ministry. Officer since deceased. Address of next-of-kin:- Mrs F. Rawlinson, “Glengowan” 22 Seymour Street, Elsternwick, Victoria.”*

The Secretary, Air Ministry, Kingsway, England, wrote to Base Records, Australia in January, 1922 to advise *“Lieutenant Percy Ivan Rawlinson (Deceased), late No. 4652, Gunner, 2nd Fd A. Bde, A.I.F. has by service in the RFC & RAF from 17.3.17 to 11.11.18 qualified for the award of British War Medal & Victory Medal which will be administered by this Office. The person entitled to receive Medals is:- Mrs M. O. Rawlinson c/o Messrs Hett, Hett & Davy, 11 Bigby Street, Briggs, Lincs.”*

The Air Ministry, Kingsway, London, England, wrote to Base Records, Melbourne, Australia on 13th December, 1923: *“With reference to your letter of the 11th October, addressed to the Secretary, War Office, on the subject of the issue of the Memorial Plaque and Scroll in respect of the late Lieutenant Percy Ivan Rawlinson, Royal Air Force, I am directed to inform you that the Memorial Emblems have already been forwarded to the widow and duly acknowledged. The regulations do not permit of duplicate Plaque and Scrolls being issued, and it is regretted, therefore, that this Department cannot assist you in the matter in question. It is suggested, however, that Mrs F. Rawlinson communicates direct with the widow, whose latest recorded address is as stated you your letter. There is no recorded in this department of her re-marriage.”*

Base Records wrote to Mrs F. Rawlinson, 16 Manor Street, Middle Brighton, Victoria, on 17th January, 1924 with the following: *"With reference to your request for a Memorial Plaque and Scroll on account of the service of your son, the late Percy RAWLINSON, who served with the Australian Imperial Force as No. 4652, Gunner, 2nd Field Artillery Brigade, and was subsequently granted a Commission in the Royal Flying Corps, appended hereunder is a copy of a communication received from the Secretary, Air Ministry, Adastral House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2., in reply to my application on your behalf:*

*With reference to your letter of the 11th October, addressed to the Secretary, War Office, on the subject of the issue of the Memorial Plaque and Scroll in respect of the late Lieutenant Percy Ivan Rawlinson, Royal Air Force, I am directed to inform you that the Memorial Emblems have already been forwarded to the widow and duly acknowledged. The regulations do not permit of duplicate Plaque and Scrolls being issued, and it is regretted, therefore, that this Department cannot assist you in the matter in question. It is suggested, however, that Mrs F. Rawlinson communicates direct with the widow, whose latest recorded address is as stated you your letter. There is no recorded in this department of her re-marriage."*

Lieutenant Percy Rawlinson was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Lieutenant Rawlinson's widow in England.

Percival Frank Rawlinson, St. Andrews, Messingham Lane, Scawby, Brigg, Lincolnshire, England, wrote to Central Army Records Office, Melbourne, Victoria on 12th April, 1967 with the following letter: *"It has been brought to my notice that applications are invited for the Anzac Commemorative Medallion. My late father Gunner P. I. Rawlinson served in Gallipoli and his particulars are as follows:- Gunner P. I. Rawlinson, NO. 4652, 6th Battery, 2nd Field Artillery Brigade, 1st Division, A.I.F. He enlisted in Victoria from 152 Blyth Street, Brunswick in 1915. Transferred from Artillery and A.I.F. as a Bombardier at the end of 1916 – early 1917 to R.F.C. Married in England in 1918 and I am his only son. He died in England in November, 1918 and is buried here at Scawby. I trust that this is the information you require."*

L. I. Rawlinson, wife of Percival Frank Rawlinson wrote to Central Army Records Office, Melbourne, Victoria on 8th May, 1967 thanking them for their letter of 3rd May, 1967 & explained that if Gunner P. I. Rawlinson is entitled to the Commemorative Medal then they *"will be visiting Australia, leaving in November, so my husband could personally call & collect the medal at your office to save sending it..."*

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Lieutenant Percy Ivan Rawlinson, aged 28, of Royal Air Force. He was the son of Frank Rawlinson; husband of Frances Rawlinson.

Lieutenant Percy Rawlinson 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** (Photo from AWM)

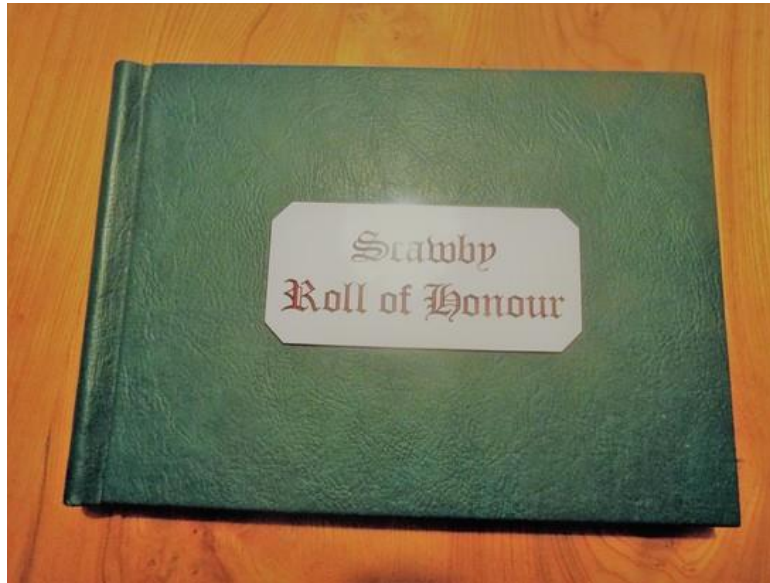
Percival Ivan Rawlinson is remembered on the Men of Scawby Parish Roll of Honour, located inside Church of St. Hibald, Church Street, Scawby, Lincolnshire, England.



Men of Scawby Parish Roll of Honour (Photo from War Memorials Online – Charles J. Anderson)



Percy Ivan Rawlinson is remembered in the Scawby Roll of Honour book, located in Church of St. Hibald, Church Street, Scawby, Lincolnshire, England.



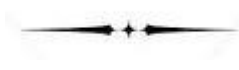
Scawby Roll of Honour book (Photos from War Memorials Online – Charles J. Anderson)



SCAWBY ROLL OF HONOUR	
HAROLD DELESBY	18.10.1914
GRUVENDOR TALBOT CLIFF	10.02.1918
REG. BERTRAM TALBOT CLIFF	29.09.1915
HENRY JOHN BIRKETT	07.08.1915
JOHN Wm. LEARNING	19.10.1915
ARTHUR THOMPSON	23.10.1917
GEORGE Wm. WILKINSON THOMPSON	26.09.1915
JOHN Wm. CASSELL	17.10.1915
GEORGE BRASIER	10.12.1915
CHARLES TAYLOR	08.12.1916
FRANCIS JOHN CHRIS. INGRAM	09.06.1918
KITCHEN REEDER	02.04.1918
JOHN NEVILLE DENT	21.03.1918
BERTIE BEEDHAM	27.05.1918
Wm. BUTLER SCRUTTON	24.05.1918
JOHN BRASIER SHERRIFF	14.10.1918
ALFRED HOWSON	23.10.1918
PERCY IVAN RAWLINSON	30.11.1918
EDWARD JOHN DENTON	01.07.1943
WILLIAM ALAN SMITH	13.10.1943
TREVOR D. THOMPSON	10.10.1957

(30 pages of Gunner Percy Rawlinson'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 (First World War Embarkation Roll & Commemorative Roll) & National Archives Australia*



**Percy Rawlinson**





Percy Rawlinson



## **Newspaper Notices**

### **COMMISSION GAINED**

Mr F. Rawlinson, of Gordon Avenue, St. Kilda, has been advised by cable that his son Percy has gained a commission in the Royal Flying Corps.

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

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### **AT GALLIPOLI AND ON THE SOMME**

#### **PERCY RAWLINSON GAINS COMMISSION**

Mr and Mrs Frank Rawlinson, of Gordon Av., St. Kilda, late of Blyth st., Brunswick, have been notified that their eldest son, Percy, had gained his commission in Royal Flying Corps. He enlisted in April, 1915, and left with Reinf., 2nd F.A.B.; was 2½ months at Gallipoli and at evacuation, returning to Egypt was sent to Rest Base, then joined Imperial School of Machine Gunnery and passed as an instructor; arriving in France with 23rd Battery F.A.B., served 5½ months on the Somme in action; he broke down and was sent to hospital and Rest Base, afterwards passing an exam. for Royal Flying Corps.

Before enlisting he was with Messrs Bartram and Sons as their representative for 5 years.

Ronald Rawlinson, a younger brother, is at Salisbury in machine gun section.

*(The Brunswick and Coburg Leader, Victoria – 13 April, 1917)*

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### **OUR BOYS AT THE FRONT**

Word has been received by his friends that Mr Percy Rawlinson, who a few years ago was fairly well known about Hay as an engineer and machinery expert, and who volunteered early in the war and was one of the Gallipoli heroes, has joined the Royal Flying Corps, and has gained a pilot's certificate.

*(The Riverine Grazier, Hay, NSW – 10 July, 1917)*

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### **DIED ON SERVICE**

RAWLINSON – On the 30th November, 1918, at The Manor, Scawby, Brigg, Lincolnshire, England (of Influenza), Flight-Lieutenant P, Rawlinson, Royal Air Service, beloved husband of Muriel Rawlinson.

RAWLINSON - On the 30th November, 1918, at The Manor, Scawby, Brigg, Lincolnshire, England (of Influenza), Flight-Lieutenant P, Rawlinson, Royal Air Service, beloved son of Frank and Frances Rawlinson, 443 Barkly street, St. Kilda.

*(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – 27 January, 1919)*

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## BEREAVEMENT CARDS

Mr and Mrs FRANK RAWLINSON desire to express their heartfelt THANKS to all kind friends and relatives for cards, letters, telegrams, and visits during their recent sad bereavement in the loss of their loved son, Percy, in England, R.A.F. (late A.I.F.), 443 Barkly street, St. Kilda.

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 22 February, 1919)

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## 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 Percy Ivan Rawlinson has a Private Headstone.

## **St. Hybald Churchyard, Scawby, Lincolnshire, England**

St. Hybald Churchyard, Scawby, Lincolnshire contains only 1 Commonwealth War Grave.



**St. Hybald, Scawby** (Photo from Billion Graves)



**St. Hybald, Scawby** (Photo above by David Wright; below Richard Croft)



Photo of Lieutenant Percy Ivan Rawlinson's Grave in St. Hybald Churchyard, Scawby, Lincolnshire, England.



(Photo from Find a Grave – Military Historian)



**Lieut. PERCY RAWLINSON, R.F.C. Late of A.I.F. (An Anzac) Died Nov. 30TH 1918. Aged 28 Years**



**Lieutenant Percy Ivan Rawlinson's Grave** (Photos from Northlincsweb – RAF Elsham Wolds)





Percival Frank Rawlinson's Plaque – son of Percy Ivan Rawlinson

