

**Brookwood Military Cemetery,
Brookwood, Surrey**

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



SECOND LIEUTENANT

F. C. SHAPIRA

AUSTRALIAN FLYING CORPS

21ST AUGUST, 1917 Age 29

Pro Patria, Pro Deo

He Loved Life

God Gave Him Life Eternal

Francis Cunningham SHAPIRA

Cunningham Felix Schapira was born on 30th July, 1887 in London, Middlesex, England to parents Rev. Alexander William and Teresa Elvina Schapira. He was baptised on 29th August, 1887 in St. Mark's Church, Whitechapel, Middlesex, England. The family lived at 29 Albert Square – Commercial Road & his father – Alexander William Schapira was a Clerk in Holy Orders.

[Alexander William Schapira, "a natural born subject of the Empire of Russia, of the age of thirty two years. An ordained Missionary of the Church Missionary Society is married and has two children, under age, residing with him, viz. Alexander Charles Morris Schapira, aged 11 months & Elizabeth Julia Schapira, aged 5 weeks" at Saint Ann's Cottage, Rosslyn Hill, Hampstead, in the county of Middlesex, England was granted a Certificate of Naturalisation on 28th October, 1878 having declared "in the period of eight years preceding his application he has resided for five years with the United Kingdom, and intends, when naturalized, to reside therein..."]

Mrs Schapira, (aged 46) along with her children Miss Schapira (aged 16), Miss D. Schapira (aged 15), Cunningham Schapira (aged 10) & Nellie Schapira (aged 9) were passengers on the *Gothic* & had embarked from London, England on 10th May, 1899 bound for Hobart, Australia.

Francis Cunningham Shapira attended St. Patrick's College, Ballarat, Victoria & Melbourne Grammar School.

Francis Cunningham Shapira was a 27 year old, single, Station Overseer from Fountainoy, Wallendbeen, NSW when he enlisted at Liverpool, Sydney, NSW on 1st March, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 1258 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – Rev. Alexander William Shapira, Lord Howe Island.

Francis Cunningham Shapira was promoted to Corporal on 29th March, 1915, having been posted to "D" Company, 18th Battalion, 5th Brigade, Australian Imperial Expeditionary Force for recruit training.

The Reverend Alexander Wilhelm Schapira, father of Francis Cunningham Shapira, died on 14th October, 1915 at Paddington, Sydney, NSW.

Corporal Francis Cunningham Shapira embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Ceramic (A40)* on 25th June, 1915 with the 5th Infantry Brigade, 18th Infantry Battalion, "D" Company.

Corporal Francis Cunningham Shapira proceeded to join M.E.F. (Mediterranean Expeditionary Force) at Gallipoli on 16th August, 1915.

Corporal Francis Cunningham Shapira, of 18th Battalion, was wounded at Gallipoli between 21st & 25th August, 1915 (date as listed on Casualty Form – Active Service). He was admitted to No. 1 Stationary Hospital at Lemnos on 23rd August, 1915 with G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to upper extremity – slight. Corporal Shapira was transferred to Convalescent Depot at Lemnos on 29th August, 1915. He was discharged to duty from Convalescent Depot on 4th September, 1915 then taken on strength at Base Details at Mudros West on 5th September, 1915.

Rev. A. W. Shapira, Lord Howe Island, was advised by Base Records on 24th September, 1915 that his son Corporal F. C. Shapira had been wounded between 21st and 25th August but was not reported seriously.

Corporal Francis Cunningham Shapira returned to duty at Gallipoli Peninsula on 28th September, 1915.

Corporal Francis Cunningham Shapira was to be Temporary Sergeant from 2nd October, 1915 vice Sergeant Hale evacuated sick.

18th Battalion

The 18th Battalion was raised at Liverpool in New South Wales in March 1915 as part of the 5th Brigade. It left Australia in early May, trained in Egypt from mid-June until mid-August, and on 22 August landed at ANZAC Cove.

The battalion had not been ashore a day when it was committed to the last operation of the August Offensive ' the attack on Hill 60 ' which lasted until 29 August and cost it 50 per cent casualties. For the rest of the campaign the

18th played a purely defensive role, being primarily responsible for holding Courtney's Post. The last members of the battalion left Gallipoli on 20 December. *(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)*

G. J. Fletcher, of Eamont, Watson Street, Neutral Bay, Sydney, wrote to Base Records on 11th October, 1915 enquiring in to *"the whereabouts of No. 1258 Corporal F. C. Shapira, "D" Company, 18th Battalion, 5th Brigade, who had been reported wounded...."* Base Records replied that his *"location is not at present known here. He is not reported as seriously wounded and Egypt advises, in the absence of further reports, it is to be assumed all such cases are progressing satisfactorily."*

A. W. Shapira wrote to Base Records on 12th October, 1915 advising that he had made a mistake in his wired address & would like to state that 16 Boundary Street, Paddington, NSW was his correct address & that any further information would be much appreciated & anxiously looked forward to. Base Records replied that they *"regret to inform you no further particulars have been received here concerning your son No. 1258 Corporal Francis Cunningham Shapira, 18th Battalion. He is not reported as seriously wounded and Egypt advises, in the absence of further reports, it is to be assumed all such cases are progressing satisfactorily. You will be immediately notified upon receipt of any late information..."*

Mr G. P. Shapira, of Lake Margaret, Power Station, Queenstown, Tasmania, wrote to Base Details on 8th November, 1915 advising them to forward any information in regards to his brother of Corporal F. C. Shapira (No. 1258 D Company, to him at the address above as his *"father died last month & my mother intends to reside with me..."* He also stated *"that although we have had word both from returned wounded men & also from my brother himself, the Defence Dept has given us no information what so in regard to the way my brother was wounded or at which hospital he was placed."* The details of the next-of-kin of Corporal Francis Cunningham Shapira were amended on 1st December, 1915 from father – Rev A. W. Shapira, Lord Howe Island – deceased to Mrs Shapira (mother) of Lake Margaret, Power Station, Queenstown, Tasmania. Base Records replied that *"No official advice has been received here as to the nature of his wound or the name of the hospital to which he was admitted."*

Mildred Wicks, of "Lorne" Austinmer, NSW, wrote to Base Records on 22nd November, 1915 asking if they had *"any record of anything referring to my nephew, No. 1258 Corporal F. C. Shapira, D. Comp, 18th Batt., reported in the 89th Casualty List as wounded."* Base Records replied stating the Corporal F. C. Shapira had been *"reported as having been wounded between the 21st and 25th of August, 1915. He is not reported as seriously wounded, and Egypt advises, in the absence of further reports, it is to be assumed all such cases are progressing satisfactorily. Next-of-kin will be promptly advised upon receipt of any later information."*

Temporary Sergeant Francis Cunningham Shapira was appointed Sergeant on 2nd January, 1916.

Sergeant Francis Cunningham Shapira disembarked at Alexandria from Mudros on 9th January, 1916 (after evacuation of troops from Gallipoli Peninsula).

Sergeant Francis Cunningham Shapira was admitted to 5th Field Ambulance at Tel-el-Kebir on 16th January, 1916. He was discharged on 18th January, 1916.

Sergeant Francis Cunningham Shapira was taken on strength of 5th Training Battalion on 4th May, 1916 from No. 1 Command Depot at Perham Downs, Wiltshire England.

Sergeant Francis Cunningham Shapira was sent to Hospital wounded on 28th May, 1916. He was admitted to Australian Hospital at Wimereux wounded on 28th May, 1916. Sergeant Shapira embarked for England from Boulogne, France on 5th June, 1916 on Hospital Ship *Jan Breydel*.

War Diary – 18th Battalion

Trenches – 27th May, 1916:

3.10am – Enemy bombarded SALIENT using shrapnel and H.E. 500-600 shells fired in all.

Ceased at 3.35 am when our artillery fired in retaliation, doing considerable damage to enemy parapet.

Casualties during bombardment were 5 O.R. wounded.

Enemy fairly active during day – snipers killed 1 O.R. and wounded 2 Sgts.

Two patrols during night.

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Sergeant Francis Cunningham Shapira was admitted to Dartford War Hospital, England on 5th June, 1916 with wounds/s to scalp. (Another entry on the Statement of Service form for F. C. Shapira recorded "*admitted Dartford War Hospital (sev. Scalp)*" on 15th July, 1916.)

Mrs Shapira, of Lake Margaret, Power Station, Queenstown, Tasmania, mother of Sergeant F. C. Shapira, was advised on 13th June, 1916 that Sergeant Shapira had been admitted to Dartford War Hospital on 5th June, 1916, suffering from a gunshot wound to scalp – mild.

Sergeant Francis Cunningham Shapira was Acting C.S.M. (Company Sergeant Major) (without pay) from 24th August, 1916.

18th Battalion

After further training in Egypt, the 18th Battalion proceeded to France. Landing there on 25 March 1916, it took part in its first major battle at Pozieres between 25 July and 5 August. The battalion returned to the Pozieres trenches for a second time in late August. After a spell in a quieter sector of the front in Belgium, the 2nd Division including the 5th Brigade, came south again in October. The 18th Battalion was spared from having to mount an attack across the quagmire that the Somme battlefield had become, but did have to continue manning the front through a very bleak winter.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Acting C.S.M. Francis Cunningham Shapira was On Command at R.F.C. from 5th Training Battalion at Chelsea on 31st October, 1916. He was marched into 5th Training Battalion on 4th November, 1916 from Chelsea Course of Instruction School.

Acting C.S.M. Francis Cunningham Shapira was selected for a course of Instruction in England for Training for an appointment to a Commission in the Australian Flying Corp. He joined Australian Flying Corps School at Reading, England on 5th December, 1916.

Acting C.S.M. Francis Cunningham Shapira was transferred to Australian Flying Corps on 13th December, 1916 from 18th Battalion. He reverted to his permanent rank of Sergeant on this date.

Sergeant Francis Cunningham Shapira having graduated for a Commission in the Australian Flying Corps was appointed Second Lieutenant in the Australian Imperial Force on 19th June, 1917.

Second Lieutenant Francis Cunningham Shapira was marched in to No. 69 Squadron, Australian Flying Corps, South Carlton on 11th July, 1917 from No. 61 Training Squadron, Australian Flying Corps.

Second Lieutenant Francis Cunningham Shapira was On Command at Wireless & Observation School at Brooklands, England from 11th July, 1917.

Second Lieutenant Francis Cunningham Shapira was marched in to No. 69 Squadron, Australian Flying Corps on 28th July, 1917 from Wireless & Observation School, Brooklands.

69 Squadron

In the first week of August 1917, 69 Squadron was declared mobilised. After their climatisation in France, not all the pilots were able to return to the Squadron. Lieutenant G I L Murray was shot down and wounded while with 53 Squadron at Bailleul. Lieutenant H F Taylor crashed badly in 5 Squadron at Acq, and Lieutenant F C Baxter crashed with 16 Squadron at Camblain l'Abbe. In addition, Lieutenant Roy Trout, who had been sent on temporary duty as an R.E.8 ferry pilot, was killed when delivering an R.E.8 (A3772) from Coventry to Lypne on 27 July.

69 Squadron was now equipped with "about twenty brand new R.E.8s" and was ready to move to France. The first section to depart South Carlton, on 17 August, were the motor transport personnel of 69 Squadron: this group comprised 73 mechanics and 57 MT vehicles, and embarked from Portsmouth on the 20th.

69 Squadron became the first Australian squadron to deploy to France, with the aircraft departing South Carlton four days later. In the back seat of the R.E.8s for the transit trip to France, it was decided the observer would be replaced by a groundcrew member: They are taking the engine fitters because they can start the engine & fix the machine if anything should go wrong... There will be eighteen machines in the air together & no doubt there will be some excitement when we start & it will be the largest flock of planes seen in this part of England for some time.

The R.E.8s departed South Carlton on the morning of 21 August, with their first leg planned to take them from Lincolnshire to Lympe, the Channel staging base in Kent. Unfortunately, Lieutenant Shapira's R.E.8 (B3421) experienced an engine problem and diverted to Biggin Hill aerodrome, in Kent. Having rectified the problem, the R.E.8 departed.

Lieutenant Wilkinson RFC, who was based at Biggin Hill, gave the following eye witness report: "He got off the ground perfectly and flew straight into the wind to get his proper height; having reached a height of some 600 feet, he turned to get his course. Almost immediately his machine started to spin slowly in flat circles, then the nose dropped and she went down in a spinning nose dive to earth."

The aircraft crashed and burst instantaneously into flames. The crew were killed on impact; dying with Lieutenant Shapira was the backseat occupant, engine rigger 2 A/M Douglas Sloane. It was an unnecessary tragedy as, in retrospect, there had been no need to hurry and catch the Squadron at Lympe, as the R.E.8s had just been held there for the next fortnight. RFC Headquarters was not yet ready to receive the new squadron, so this and bad weather detained the Australians in Kent until 9 September 1917.

(Information from ADF Serials Telegraph News – Volume 8; Issue 4; Spring 2018)

Second Lieutenant Francis Cunningham Shapira, pilot, & Air Mechanic 2nd Class William Douglas Sloane, passenger, in an R.E.8. Serial number B3421, having previously diverted to Biggin Hill Aerodrome, Kent, England with engine trouble, departed on 21st August, 1917. The Casualty Card from R.A.F. Museum Story vault recorded nature & cause of the accident as: "*Pilot after taking off from forced landing turned down wind at 700 ft. & got into a spin from which he did not recover.*" A Court of Inquiry found "*Engine running satisfactorily – not due to any breakage of any structural part. Engine running at moment of impact with ground – did not catch fire in air – at 700 ft machine got into a spin & pilot was unable to recover before hitting ground.*"

Second Lieutenant Francis Cunningham Shapira died at 2.15 pm on 21st August, 1917 at Biggin Hill, Westerham, England as a result of an aeroplane accident. Air Mechanic 2nd Class William Douglas Sloane also died in the accident.

A death for Francis C. Shapira, aged 29, was registered in the September quarter, 1917 in the district of Bromley, Kent, England.

Second Lieutenant Francis Cunningham Shapira was buried at 1.30 pm on 25th August, 1917 in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England – Plot number XI. C. 3 (Plot number 11, Row C, Grave 3) and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Second Lieutenant Francis Cunningham Shapira - *Coffin was good polished Elm. The deceased officer was accorded a public funeral with full Military Honours. Pipers Band, Firing Party of 40, 3 Buglers and a part of Mourners were supplied by the South African Regiment. The coffin was borne to the graveside by members of the Headquarters Staff A.I.F., London. Chaplain Rev. Wilson conducted the service at the graveside. The "Last Post" was sounded at the graveside by the Buglers of the South African Regiment. A number of wreaths were placed on the coffin. An oak cross will be erected by the A.I.F. London. Deceased met his death through the aeroplane nose diving and catching fire, the Lieut. and Mechanic being pinned to the ground, and unable to extricate themselves from the ruins. An Inquest was held at Biggin Hill on 23rd August, 1917, when the Coroner's Jury returned the following verdict: - Killed through an aeroplane nose diving to earth, and my misadventure. Captain Edward represented the Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London.*

Names of relatives or friends present at the Funeral – Mrs Cole, 82 Pendle Rd, Streatham Pk, S.W. Mrs Mortimer, 82 Pendle Rd, Streatham Pk, S.W. Miss Dunning, 21 Linacre, Willesden Green, London, N.W. Miss Davidson, 133 St. Albans Avenue, Bedford Park, Chiswick. Mrs Wrigglesworth, 33 Rose Street, Covent Garden, W.C. and Mr J. Baxter, 36 Oxford Road, Putney, S.W. (Friends)

Air Mechanic 2nd Class William Douglas Sloane was also buried at 1.30 pm on 25th August, 1917 in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England – Plot number XI.D.15 (Plot number 11, Row D, Grave 15) and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Second Lieutenant Francis Cunningham Shapira contains a report given by Lieutenant Wilkinson, R.F.C., Wireless Testing Park, Biggin Hill, Kent, England who witnessed the accident of the aeroplane.

"The O.C. has handed your letter over to me to answer. He considers it a matter requiring more personal details than he could supply, and I was the last to speak to them and one of the first on the scene of the accident. Their machine landed on the Aerodrome about 12.10pm on August 21st, last. Lieut. Shapira was the pilot and 2/AM Sloane, the gunner observer. They were on their way from South Carlton, Lincs. to France via Lypne. They were a little off their course and having had some slight engine trouble, came down on sighting our Aerodrome, to have this remedied and to find their actual position. Their engine was put right and petrol tanks refilled by our mechanics. Meanwhile Lieut. Shapira came to lunch with us and Sloane went to the men's dining hut for his. Shortly after lunch, having got full details of their course, they climbed aboard and their engine was "run up" for them. They expressed themselves entirely satisfied and it was indeed running perfectly. Just before they left, a message came through from the Air Board, to the effect that if Lieut. Shapira thought the weather conditions were not good enough, he was not to start. This message I delivered to him while he was in his machine with the engine running. The weather was perfectly fit for flying and he just smiled and said, "That's alright cheer oh", and proceeded to get away. He got off the ground perfectly and flew straight into the wind to get his proper height; having reached a height of some 600 feet, he turned to get on his course. Almost immediately his machine started to spin slowly in flat circles, then the nose dropped and she went down in a spinning nose dive to earth. We heard the crash and saw a cloud of smoke ascend from behind a clump of trees, and heard the popping of cartridges. Immediately an ambulance and a light tender proceeded to the spot, and believe me, we lost no time in getting there, but we were unable to do anything for them. The machine was blazing from end to end, and it was impossible to approach her. A man who was working in the field in which she fell, had tried, he told us, to drag them out with a long handled hay rake, but it was soon obvious that they were dead, and he gave up the attempt. The Doctor who reached the spot shortly after we did, gave it as his opinion that their death was instantaneous. We got the fire out and took the bodies along to our Aerodrome, where they were placed in a hut and a Guard mounted. An inquest was held, the verdict being accidental death when flying. No one knows, of course, what caused the machine to spin, but it seems to be the general opinion here that it was due to an error of judgement as to the right amount of bank required. We sent wires to all the British addresses amongst their personal effects, advising them of the accident, and the place and date of funeral. These were all contained in a note book belonging to Lt. Shapira, which together with all the personal belongings of them both, handed over to the Australian Administrative Hdqtrs. The latter also undertook all arrangements for the funeral, and would be able to give all details as to place, etc. May I offer on behalf of all officers here, our sympathy with the relatives in their loss."

Mrs Shapira, of "Corry", Grange Rd, Ormond, signed a Statutory Declaration on 21st June, 1921 stating she was the mother of 1258/Lieutenant F. C. Shapira, 18th Battalion/A.F.C. & that her "*husband is not now living & that I am the only person who is entitled to all medals & decorations that the above deceased soldier is entitled to.*"

Second Lieutenant Francis Cunningham Shapira was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Second Lieutenant Shapira's mother – Mrs Shapira, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent July, 1921 & Plaque sent December, 1922 then re-despatched February, 1923).

Mrs F. Shapira, of "Hildador", Filbert Street, Caulfield, Victoria, mother of the late Second Lieutenant Francis Cunningham Shapira, wrote to Base Records on 14th May, 1923 advising that she had lost her "Mother's Badge" number 144436 & was enquiring if it had been returned to Base Records. She asked if the Badge had not been returned would she be able to obtain another Badge. Base Records replied that that Badge had not been returned to their Office & also informed her with regret that the issue of the Badges ceased on 31st March, 1922 & no further stock was available for distribution.

Mrs F. Shapira, of "St. Edmunds", Rothschild Street, Glen Huntley, Victoria, mother of the late Second Lieutenant Francis Cunningham Shapira, wrote to the Commissioner of War Graves, Victoria Barracks in September, 1925,

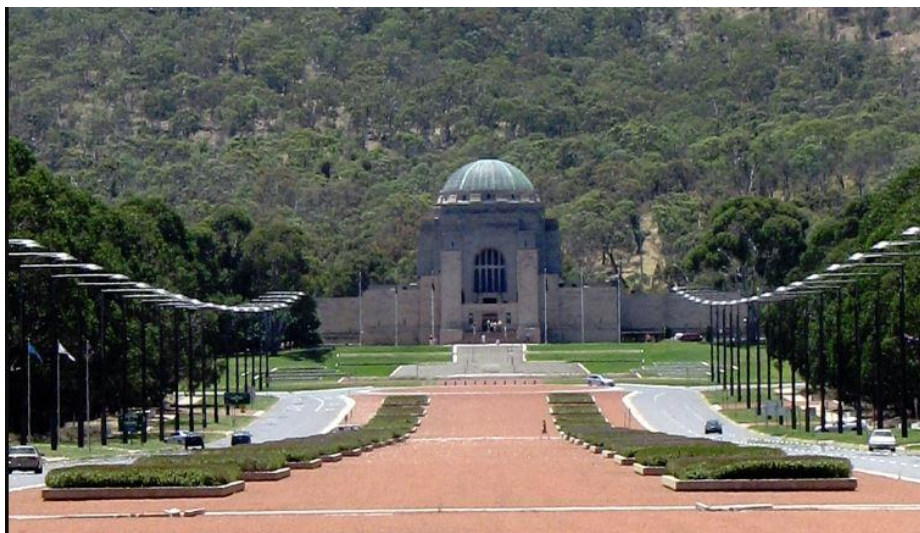
stating that the Defence Department had promised a photo of the permanent headstone for her son but she had not received anything. Base Records replied that the *“Government has reluctantly decided not to supply next-of-kin with photographs of the completed war stones. It was understood at one time that the War Office, London, was arranging to obtain these for transmission to relatives, and it was presumably as the result of this suggestion that you were erroneously advised of the Department’s intention in this respect. Photographs of the overseas war graves may be obtained, however, on application to the Secretary, The St. Barnabas Hostels, 7 Hobart Place, London S.W.1, who will furnish one negative and two prints (postcard size) for the sum of seven shillings and sixpence (7/6), including postage...”*

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Second Lieutenant Francis Cunningham Shapira, aged 29, of 69th Squadron, Australian Flying Corps. He was the son of the Rev. A. W. and Theresa Shapira, of Lake Margaret Power Station, Queenstown, Tasmania. Native of London, England.

Second Lieutenant F. C. Shapira 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



F. Schapira is remembered on the St. Patrick's College, Ballarat WW1 Honour Roll, located in St. Patrick's College, 1431 Sturt Street, Ballarat, Victoria.



St. Patrick's College, Ballarat – Roll of Honour (Photo courtesy of St. Patrick's College Archives)

C. F. Shapira is remembered on the Melbourne Grammar School Honour Roll, located in Melbourne Grammar School, Domain Road, Melbourne, Victoria.



Melbourne Grammar School Honour Roll (Photos by Chris McLaughlin)

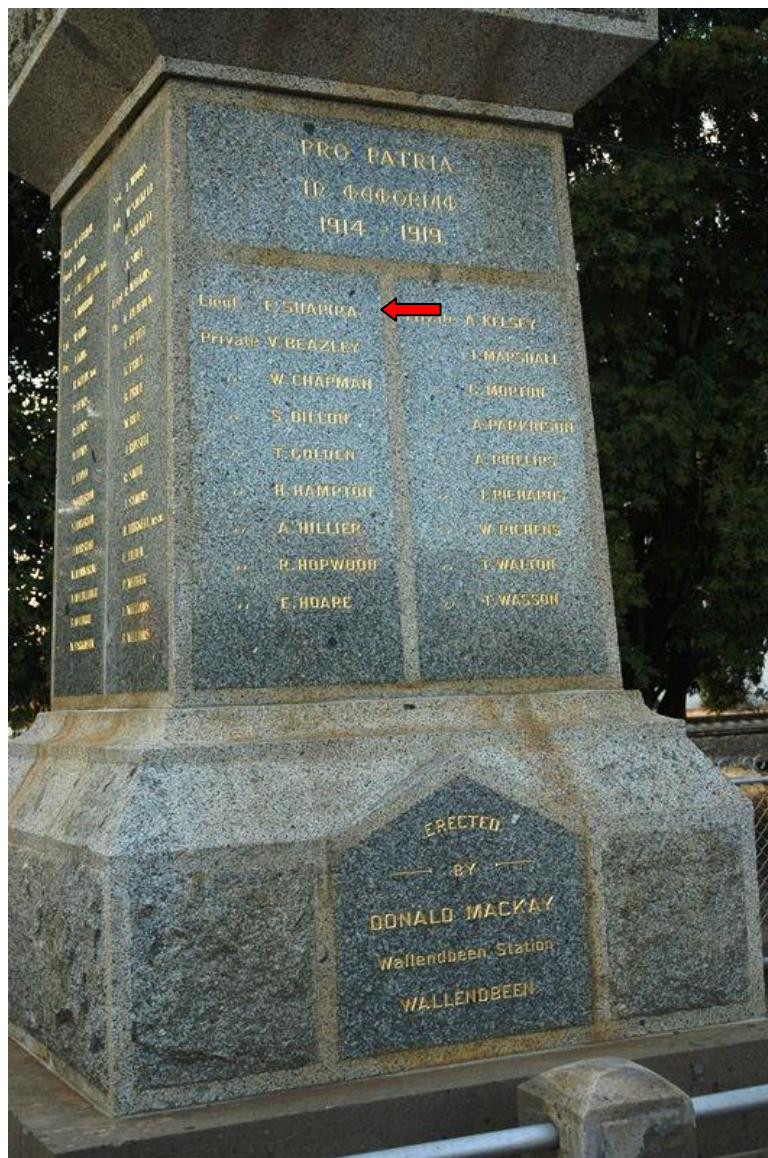


F. Shapira is remembered on the Wallendbeen War Memorial, located at King, Hosking & Lackey Streets, Wallendbeen, NSW.



Wallendbeen War Memorial

(Photo above from AWM Places of Pride – Henry Moulds; below from Monument Australia)



F. Shapira is remembered on the William Thompson Masonic School War Memorial at Balcombe Heights Estate located at 92 Seven Hills Road, Baulkham Hills, NSW. The William Thompson Masonic School War Memorial commemorates the masons of New South Wales who died in service or were killed in action during World War One. This memorial has no inscription except for the veterans names engraved into the glass plate panels. This memorial was built and installed in 2007.

An Avenue of Trees was planted in memory of Freemasons of NSW who made the supreme sacrifice in the Great War 1914 – 1918. 364 Brush Box Trees were planted in along the avenue of the western boundary of the Masonic School. A list of their names is displayed on the memorial at the northern end of the avenue.

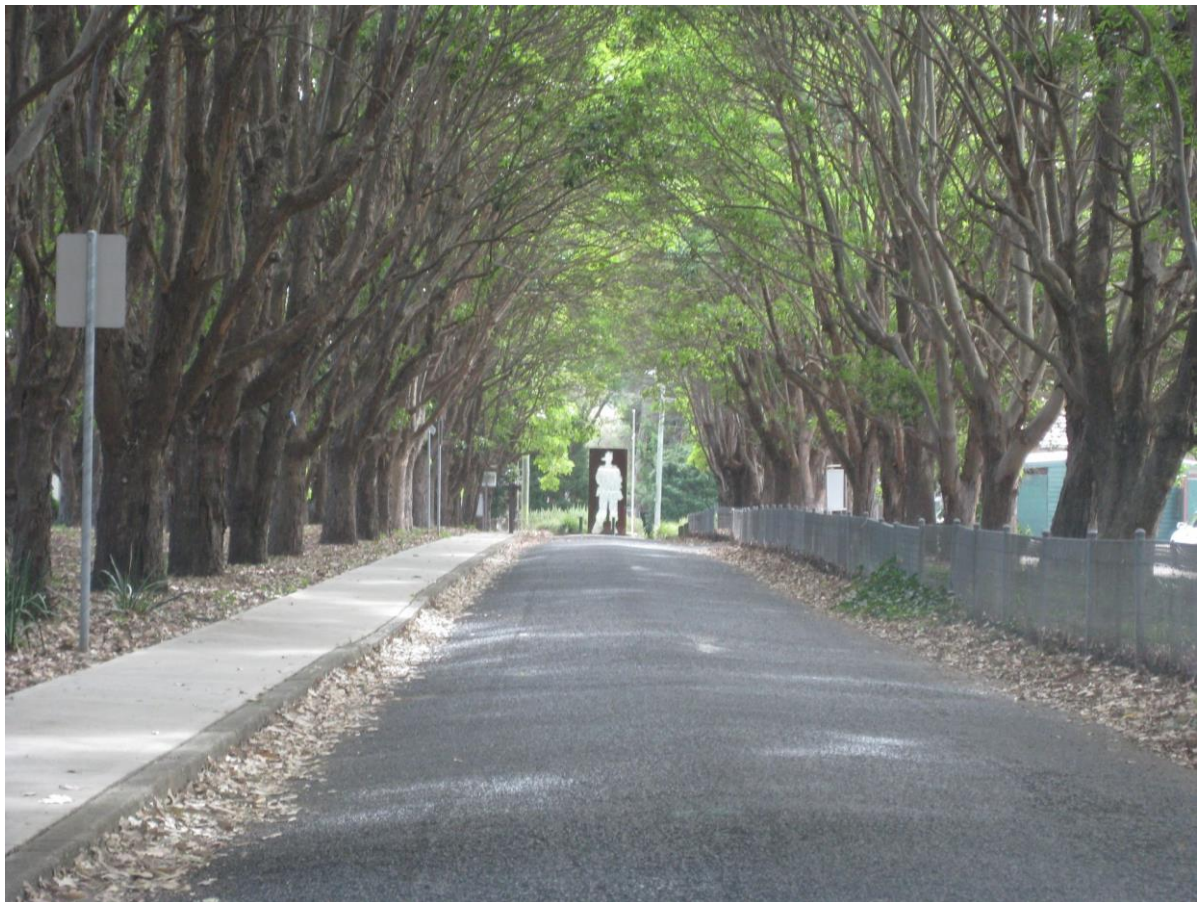


William Thompson Masonic School War Memorial
(Photos from War Memorials Register of NSW – Ron McIntosh)





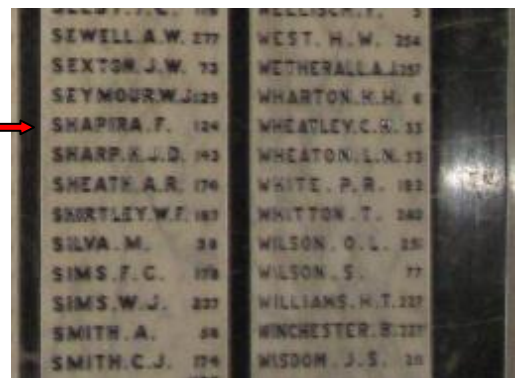
The Avenue of Trees (*Photos from War Memorials Register of NSW – Ron McIntosh*)



F. Shapira is remembered on the Grand Lodge of Sydney Honour Roll located inside the United Grand Lodge of Sydney, 279 Castlereagh Street (cnr Goulburn Street), Sydney, NSW.



Grand Lodge of Sydney Honour Roll (Photos from War Memorials Register of NSW – Ron McIntosh)



2nd Lieut. Francis C. Shapira is remembered on the Wall of Remembrance, at the War Memorial, Cecilia Street, St. Helens, Tasmania. The Wall of Remembrance commemorates those from Tasmania who died in service or were killed in action in World War One.

Front Inscription

Tasmania's World War One Roll of Honour, 1914 - 1918

The names of 3165 soldiers, sailors and airmen who were Tasmanian by birth or residence and died from their service in WW1 are commemorated on these walls. Their names appear alphabetically, grouped by the year of death. These men served with Australian, New Zealand and British units.

"What these men did nothing can alter now. The good and the bad, the greatness and the smallness of their story will stand. Whatever of glory it contains nothing now can lessen. It rises, as it will always rise, above the mists of ages, a monument to great hearted men; and for their nation, a possession forever."

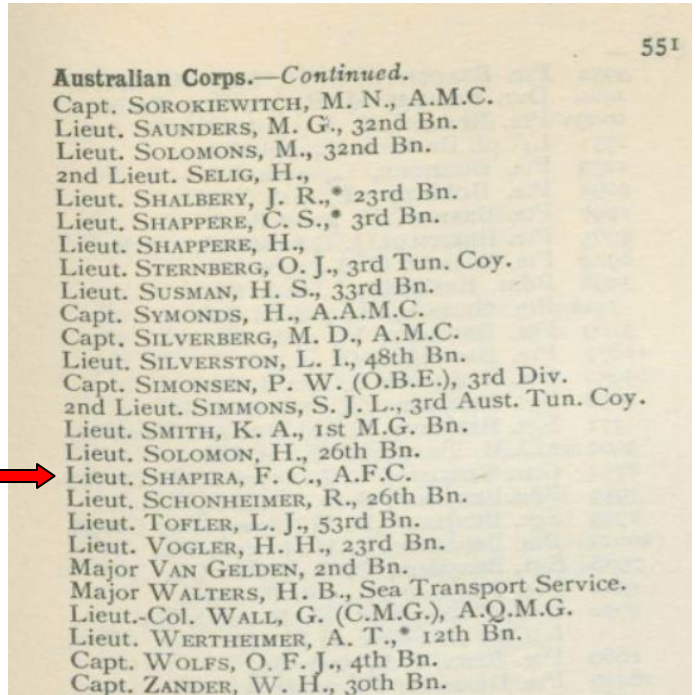
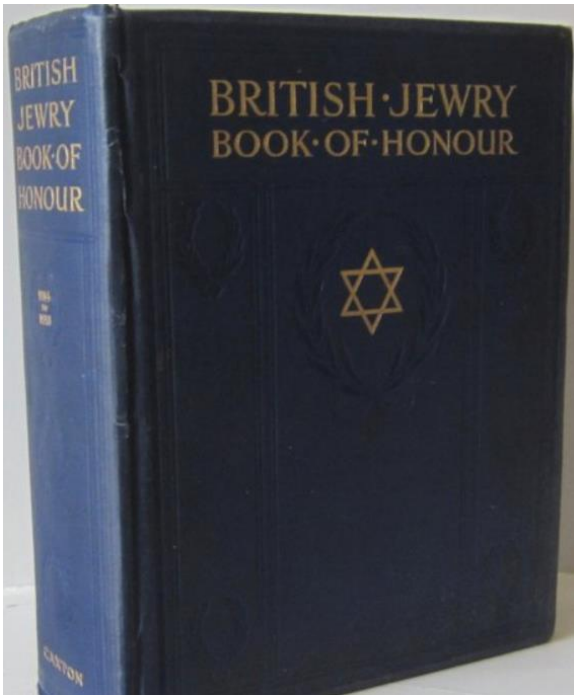


Wall of Remembrance, St. Helens, Tasmania (Photo from Places of Pride – Henry Moulds)

1228	Pte	Russell	Henry McDougal	31.05.1917	19	40th Inf Bn	Barrington	
3336	LCpl	Russell	William Hedley	28.03.1917	20	52nd Inf Bn	King Island	
8637	Pte	Russell	Albert	30.10.1917	22	8th Inf Bn	Burns	
2381	Pte	Ryan	John Joseph	07.06.1917	30	40th Inf Bn	New Norfolk	
2520	Pte	Ryan (O'Brien)	Patrick	11.04.1917	31	4 LtTrenchMtrBty	Devonport	ANZAC
2508	Pte	Sale	Robert Henry M	19.09.1917	23	12th Inf Bn	Avoca	
0419	Pte	Sales	Henry Tasman	06.01.1917	28	6th Fd Amb Coy	Fingal	
2989	Pte	Salmarah	Horace Edgar	05.10.1917	21	40th Inf Bn	Campbelltown	
6365	Pte	Sampson	Mortimer Francis	04.10.1917	34	5th Inf Bn	Franklin	
5180	Pte	Sanderson	Robert	01.01.1917	31	52nd Inf Bn	Ross	
2877	Pte	Saunders	Alfred Frederick	13.10.1917	22	40th Inf Bn	Latrobe	
274	LCpl	Saunders	Henry Francis	05.04.1917	23	13LtTrenchMtrBty	Launceston	ANZAC
2150	Pte	Saunders	Henry Joseph L	02.10.1917	26	40th Inf Bn	Forest	
5342	Pte	Saunders	Norman Basil L	08.10.1917	27	12th Inf Bn	Sidmouth	
1107	Pte	Saunders	Powelard Eugene A	28.02.1917	30	40th Inf Bn	Sorell	
1929	UCpl	Saunders	Robert Henry	04.10.1917	28	26th Inf Bn	Latrobe	ANZAC
R 945	Cpl	Saunders	William Henry	16.10.1917	25	52nd Inf Bn	Zealand	ANZAC
R 968	Pte	Saunders	Leslie James	28.03.1917	26	30th Inf Bn	Mahinna	ANZAC
102106	Pte	Scant	James	08.05.1917	0	NZEF AR	Fentonbury	
(127)	LI	Scant	Frank Sydney	06.05.1917	37	5th Fd Coy Engr	New Norfolk	
(115009)	Capt	Schaefer	Herman	20.07.1917	23	5 DivTrenchMtrBty	Waratah	ANZAC
10983	Gnr	Scottick	Archibald Neville	20.04.1917	19	5th Fd Arty Bde	Moonah	
365	Sgt	Scott	Levita George	06.04.1917	23	12th Inf Bn	Devonport	ANZAC
2901	Pte	Scott	Robert Arundale	30.01.1917	22	47th Inf Bn	Mangana	ANZAC
(2042)	LI	Scott	William Robert	29.09.1917	27	12th Fd Arty Bde	Oatlands	ANZAC
3333	Pte	Scott	Douglas	11.04.1917	25	15th Inf Bn	Lindisfarne	
3285A	Pte	Scully	William James	20.09.1917	22	12th Inf Bn	Waratah	ANZAC
474	Gnr	Seafie	Cyril Noel	30.09.1917	22	11th Fd Arty Bde	Hobart	
2954	Pte	Seabrook	Ray Vernon	23.08.1917	22	52nd Inf Bn	Westbury	
12406	Gnr	Selby	John Robert	12.08.1917	23	8th Fd Arty Bde	Hagley	
34190	Gnr	Seewal	Reginald Arthur	22.10.1917	22	10th Fd Arty Bde	Mangana	
2642	Pte	Shackelock	Edney	01.02.1917	19	40th Inf Bn	Gretna	
(1258)	2nd LI	Shapira	Francis C	21.08.1917	29	3 Bn AFC	Queenstown	ANZAC
5390	Pte	Sharland	Charles Frederic	12.10.1917	34	40th Inf Bn	Hobart	
925	LCpl	Sharp	Richard Ralph	07.03.1917	29	3rd Fd Amb Coy	Port Cygnet	
2044	Cpl	Sharne	Charles Frederic	13.10.1917	23	40th Inf Bn	Clarendon	
1016	Pte	Shak	Mark	22.08.1917	31	2nd Fd Arty Bde	Sandy Bay	ANZAC
735	LCpl	Shawing	Leonard Charles	28.11.1917	22	40th Inf Bn	Latrobe	ANZAC
4360	LCpl	Shelton	Mervyn Edgar	19.09.1917	25	12th Inf Bn	Dysart	
1930	Gnr	Shepherd	Althealona Claude	03.10.1917	22	48th Inf Bn	Arvo	
32598	Pte	Shepherd	James David	24.10.1917	27	14th Fd Arty Bde	Uverstone	
498	Pte	Shields	Ernest Victor	15.04.1917	28	12th Inf Bn	Railton	
588	Pte	Shields	Edwin Charles	02.01.1917	28	40th Inf Bn	Baldy Point	ANZAC
929	LCpl	Shirley	Raymond	06.05.1917	22	40th Inf Bn	Penguin	
2521	Pte	Shields MC	Arthur William	08.04.1917	25	12th Inf Bn	Zealand	
5188	Sgt	Shipton	William John	07.06.1917	40	47th Inf Bn	Launceston	
6345	Pte	Shreeve		11.06.1917	31	52nd Inf Bn	Launceston	ANZAC
				03.06.1917	36	12th Inf Bn	Labrina	
							Port Esperance	

2642	Pte	Shackelock	Reginald Arthur	22.10.1917	22	6th Fd Arty Bde	Hagley	
(1258)	2nd LI	Shapira	Edney	01.02.1917	19	10th Fd Arty Bde	Mangana	
5390	LI	Sharland	Francis C	21.08.1917	29	40th Inf Bn	Gretna	
925	Pte	Sharp	Charles Frederic	12.10.1917	34	40th Inf Bn	Queenstown	ANZAC

Lieutenant F. C Shapira, A.F.C. (Australian Flying Corps) is recorded in the British Jewry Book of Honour 1914 – 1918 (page 551).



(99 pages of Second Lieutenant Francis Cunningham Shapira'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



Second Lieutenant Francis Cunningham Shapira



Second Lieutenant Francis Cunningham Shapira



Newspaper Notices

LETTER FROM SERGEANT SHAPIRA

Mr. A. Bolger, of Fontenay, has received the following interesting letter from Sergeant Shapira, late of Fontenoy:

Gallipoli, 7th October, 1915, — Rather disappointed not to have heard from you since I left Australia, have written to some of you half a dozen times. As you see by the above I am back again with my company, wound has quite healed up, just left a small scar on the palm and back of my hand to remind me that there had been such a thing. I had several letters from the Coota district and each told me that there was every prospect for a good spring, awfully pleased to hear it, its about up to you to have a few good seasons after the bad times you have been through.

Things are fairly quiet over here, shells flying all day and rifle fire and bombs at night. Hearing rattling good news about the western front, the state of affairs over there ought to have the effect of making the Balkan States take a definite step one way or the other, cannot see how they can stay out of this bust up much longer, although it seems that Bulgaria is likely to get on to the toe grip of Germany, and Greece and Roumania side with the Allies, those two states with England at the back of them, should be enough for Bulgaria to tackle and get a hiding from, should she go against us, I can imagine you all sitting on the verandah every evening discussing the situation.

From my dug-out, right amidst the positions so frequently mentioned in the papers, I can see the wooden cross erected over Sergeant Larkin's grave, the Labor member. It is half way up a steep hill, and to see the place you would marvel how our boys ever charged up there.

Have just been reading of Darcy's win, over McGoorty, if my memory does not fail me, you always predicted a brilliant future in the fistic world for Darcy. In the same issue of the Sunday Sun, is the account of Holman's attempt to address the crowd about recruiting. The only reason I can see for them not listening him, was, that they were darned well ashamed of themselves, and did not care to have it thrown at them. Its a pity that crowd could not take a walk through some of the hospitals and see what I have seen; men with frightful wounds, suffering in silence, and the never ending questions to the doctors:- how soon before I can get back and join my Company?, and also how the Australian girls toil, and more than toil for 12, 14, to 16 hours each day, and often they have not time to leave their canvas wards to have their meals. I have seen the orderlies taking a cup of cocoa to some of them and insist on them drinking it. When half way through it, they would have to leave to attend to a case. It makes me mad to think of girls doing so much, and those, I would not call them Australians, hooting, because they are appealed to, to do what is only their duty.

You would laugh and Mrs. Bolger would shudder if you could take a walk through the dug-outs early in the morning to see the men hunting in their shirts and singlets (some of them are lucky enough to have both) for stray animals that have a nasty habit of getting there. It is compulsory to have a wash at least once a week, and for that reason, there are bathing parades down to the beach in small batches, once a week. I would give anything for a real fresh water bath, one that you could turn the tap on full, and not give a damn how much water you wasted. But it is all in the game, and you bet we will make up for it if we have the luck to get through.

At night each few dug-outs close together have their concert parties, sing away just as they did in the old days in their tents at Liverpool.

Do you remember seeing an aeroplane exhibition in Sydney, paying 5/ to see it. I had one experience of being bombed by one of them. I would have paid one hundred times that amount not to have seen it. It was a little too exciting while it lasted, and no loop the loop or planing exhibitions about it either.

Give my kindest regards to all I know about the village, including Fontenoy. I have received my third stripe and have the high distinction of being called Sergeant now."

(*Young Witness*, NSW – 7 December, 1915)

Roll of Honour

The 178th Casualty List

TASMANIA

Wounded in Action – Sergt. F. C. Shapira (Queenstown)

(Examiner, Launceston, Tasmania – 23 June, 1916)

LOCAL CASUALTIES

DEATH OF SERGEANT FRANK SHAPIRA.

The sad news has been received by Mr. A. Bolger, of Fontenoy Station, Young, of the death of Sergeant Frank Shapira. How the gallant young soldier (who was only about 24 years of age and had just received a commission in the Royal Flying Corps) met his death was not disclosed in the cable. Prior to enlisting as a private in March, 1915, the deceased held a trusted position on Fontenoy, where during the four years of his employment he won the esteem of his employer as well as all those with whom he came in contact. It was with regret that his friends bade him farewell, but they honored him for his bravery in offering his services to the Empire in the hour of trial. Entering battle for the first time, he was attached to the famous 18th Battalion which was almost cut to pieces in Gallipoli. He took part in that memorable encounter which ended so disastrously for the 18th, and was one of the few who escaped. His only injury was a gunshot wound in the palm of the hand. In the subsequent fighting in Gallipoli, he sustained a slight wound in the heel, but remained on the Peninsular until the evacuation. Then he was sent to France, where about twelve months ago he sustained a severe scalp wound. He was placed in an Australian hospital behind the lines, but after ten days he was sent over to England. A considerable time elapsed before he was able to return to duty. When he did recover, feeling that the pressing need of the army was for more airmen, he made application and was accepted for service in the Royal Flying Corps. He must have made good progress, for quite recently he cabled Mr Bolger to the effect that he had received a commission. The last letter received by Mr. Bolger was written from Stirling (Scotland) to which place he had been transferred in order to receive further aerial training. Much regret will be felt by all who knew this splendid young man, when they learn of his death. His mother resides in Tasmania, but his father (who was a clergyman) died in Sydney about 18 months ago. A brother is also doing service in France, having recovered from wounds.

(Young Witness, NSW – 28 August, 1917)

The Roll of Honor

A cable has just been received by Mr A. Bolger, of Fontenoy Station, Young, stating that Sergt. Frank Scahpira, who took part in the Gallipoli landing had been killed in action. He was 24 years of age and a member of the Flying Corps.

(Cowra Free Press, NSW – 29 August, 1917)

DIED ON SERVICE

SHAPIRA – Died in England on 21st August, Lieutenant Frank Shapira, Australian Flying Corps, dearly loved son of the late Rev. A. W. and Mrs Shapira, and brother of Mrs E. Davies, 27 Claremont street, South Yarra.

Gallipoli, Egypt, France.

(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – 1 September, 1917)

Deaths on Active Service

SHAPIRA – In England, killed when flying, on the 21st August, 1917, Lieutenant Frank Shapira, Australia Flying Corps, dearly-beloved youngest son of the late Rev. A. W. Shapira (formerly rector of George Town) and of Mrs Shapira, Queenstown, Tasmania. (Gallipoli, Egypt, France)

(*Examiner*, Launceston, Tasmania – 15 September, 1917)

Roll of Honour

Casualty List – No. 338

Tasmanian Casualties

ACCIDENTALLY KILLED

2nd-Lieut. F. C. SHAPIRA, Queenstown, 21/8/17

(*Examiner*, Launceston, Tasmania – 18 September, 1917)

DEATH OF AUSTRALIAN AIRMAN

**Funeral of Airman William Douglas Sloane, of Mulwala,
who was accidentally killed in England while flying to France.**

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In Airman W. D. Sloane's last letter he mentioned that he had been appointed to have charge of the battleplane " Riverina " (Australia, No. 21), and was to fly that machine at the front in France.

A comrade, when writing to his father in Melbourne, asked that these particulars should be conveyed to the parents of the deceased soldier :—

" I am writing this on the train on the way to the place where we embark. All the machines bar one arrived safely. The machine piloted by Lieutenant Shapira and D. (Tod) Sloane met with a mishap, which proved fatal to the two boys. Engine trouble, resulting in a nose dive, with a crash, which caused the loss of both lives of esteemed members of our Flight Squadron. Poor old Tod, The boys feel very sad about his death, and the news came through so suddenly—only about six hours after we boys had shaken hands with them and waved them off."

(*Tungamah and Lake Rowan Express and St. James Gazette*, Victoria – 25 October, 1917) &

(*The Corowa Free Press*, NSW – 30 October, 1917) & (*The Albury Banner and Wodonga Express*, NSW – 2 November, 1917) &

(*Young Witness*, NSW – 20 November, 1917)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

SHAPIRA – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Lieutenant Frank Shapira, A.F.C., who gave his life for King and country, August 21, 1917. (Inserted by his loving mother and sister).

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 21 August, 1918)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

SHAPIRA – In loving memory of Lieut. Frank Shapira, A.F.C., who gave his life for his country, August 21, 1917, aged 27 years, youngest son of the late Rev. A. W. Shapira. Inserted by his loving mother, sisters, and brothers.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 21 August, 1918)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

SHAPIRA – In proud and loving memory of my dear son, Lieut. Franck Shapira, A.F.C., who gave his life for his country whilst flying on August 21, 1917. Inserted by his loving mother.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 21 August, 1919)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

SHAPIRA – In ever loving and proud memory of Lieut. Frank Shapira, A.F.C., who was killed August 21, 1917, whilst flying to France. (Inserted by his loving mother, sisters and brothers.)

(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – 21 August, 1922)

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 F. C. Shapira does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Pro Patria, Pro Deo

He loved Life

God Gave Him Life Eternal

Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England

Located 30 miles from London in Surrey, Brookwood Military Cemetery is the largest CWGC cemetery in the United Kingdom. The cemetery contains the graves of more than 1,600 servicemen of the British Empire in the First World War and over 3,470 from the Second World War.

Brookwood Military Cemetery lies adjacent to Brookwood Cemetery (The London Necropolis), a vast space which covers 500 acres. In 1917, an area to the north of the cemetery was set aside as Brookwood Military Cemetery for men and women of Commonwealth forces who died, many of battle wounds, in the London district. This site was further extended to accommodate Commonwealth casualties of the Second World War. *(Information from CWGC)*

There are 446 Australian War Graves in Brookwood Military Cemetery – 351 from World War 1 & 95 from World War 2.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

D00185

A large crowd attends an A.I.F. military funeral at Brookwood Cemetery. In the foreground wooden crosses mark rows of graves. (Photo c1919)

Identified: Front row, left to right: Second Lieutenant Douglas Abbott Ferguson, Australian Flying Corps, died of accidental injuries 18 August 1918; Lieutenant (Lt) Francis John Smedley MC, 7th Battalion, died of wounds 20 August 1918. Second row: 6860 Private (Pte) James Alexander McKeown, 21st Battalion, died of wounds 20 June 1918; 3622 Pte S T Wilson, 2nd Australian Pioneers, died of wounds 4 July 1918; 2390 Sergeant Frederick Charles Stronell, 21st Battalion, died of wounds 9 July 1918; Lt Arthur Melville Lilburne MC, 6th Brigade Australian Field Artillery, died of disease 11 July 1918.



Brookwood Military Cemetery (Photo from CWGC)



Brookwood Military Cemetery (Photo by Magicfingers)



Australian Graves in Brookwood Military Cemetery (Photos by Magicfingers)





Photo of Second Lieutenant F. C. Shapira's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England.



