

**Upavon Cemetery,
Upavon, Wiltshire
War Grave**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



SECOND LIEUTENANT

A. D'A. SUTHERLAND

ROYAL FLYING CORPS

28TH FEBRUARY, 1917

Alan D'Arcy SUTHERLAND

Alan D'Arcy Sutherland was born in Adelaide, South Australia on 14th April, 1889 to parents Hamilton D'Arcy Sutherland & Eleanor Sutherland (nee Ford).

Alan D'Arcy Sutherland attended St. Peter's College & was a Sergeant in Cadets for 1 year.

Alan D'Arcy Sutherland married Elsie Letitia Trehearn on 28th April, 1913 at All Saints Church, St. Peter's, Norwood, South Australia.

Hamilton D'Arcy Sutherland, father of Alan D'Arcy Sutherland, Manager of the National Bank at Adelaide, died on 20th October, 1913 at Prospect, South Australia.

Hamilton D'Arcy Sutherland, son of Alan D'Arcy & Elsie Sutherland, was born on 9th December, 1913 at Minlaton, South Australia.

Lancelot Robert Sutherland, son of Alan D'Arcy & Elsie Sutherland, was born in 1915 at Daly, South Australia.

Alan D'Arcy Sutherland was a 26 year old, married (with 2 children), Auctioneer from Minlaton, Yorke Peninsula, South Australia when he enlisted on 12th August, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 5046 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs Elsie Letitia Sutherland of Minlaton, Yorke Peninsula, South Australia.

Private Alan D'Arcy Sutherland was posted to "N" Group Infantry at Base Depot for recruit training from 12th August, 1915. He attended N.C.O. Class from 23rd August, 1915 until 30th September, 1915. Pte Sutherland was posted to 12th Reinforcements of 10th Battalion on 1st October, 1915 as Sergeant. He attended Officer's School from 16th October, 1915 to 31st October, 1915. Sergeant Sutherland was posted to 8th Reinforcements of 27th Battalion on 1st November, 1915 & transferred to "A" Company on 1st December, 1915.

Alan D'Arcy Sutherland applied for a Commission in the A.I.F on 8th December, 1915. His educational qualifications were listed as "Passed Senior Public University Examination". He qualified at a competitive examination for first appointment as 2nd Lieutenant on 6th November, 1915. He was currently ranked as Sergeant attached to "A" Group, Base Infantry.

Sergeant Alan D'Arcy Sutherland received a Commission on 16th December, 1915 as Second Lieutenant with 2nd Reinforcements of 48th Battalion.

Second Lieutenant Alan D'Arcy Sutherland embarked from Adelaide, South Australia on HMAT *Aeneas (A60)* on 11th April, 1916 for active service abroad.

Second Lieutenant Alan D'Arcy Sutherland embarked from Alexandria on *Franconia* on 6th June, 1916 & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 16th June, 1916.

Second Lieutenant Alan D'Arcy Sutherland was posted to Codford, Wiltshire, England from 27th July, 1916 to perform duties as Adjutant of 12th Infantry Training Battalion.

Reinforcements were only given basic training in Australia. Training was completed in training units in England. Some of these were located in the Salisbury Plain & surrounding areas in the county of Wiltshire.

Second Lieutenant Alan D'Arcy Sutherland was discharged from Australian Imperial Force in U.K. on 22nd October, 1916 as he had gained a Commission in R.F.C. (Royal Flying Corps)

Second Lieutenant Alan D'Arcy Sutherland was struck off strength from A.I.F. (Australian Imperial Force) on 23rd October, 1916 having "*performed duties of Adj. 12th Training Battalion from 27th July, 1916.*"

Second Lieutenant Alan D'Arcy Sutherland was transferred to R.F.C. Details on 22nd October, 1916 from 48th Battalion ex 12th Training Battalion. No. 2 Camp. He joined R.F.C. – No. 2 Flying Corps, School of Instruction at Oxford, England on 23rd October, 1916.

Second Lieutenant Alan D'Arcy Sutherland was posted to Coventry (date entered on Officer's Service Record was 28th December, 1916). From Coventry he was transferred to 24 R.S. (date entered on Officer's Service Record was 5th January, 1917). Second Lieutenant Alan D'Arcy Sutherland was transferred to C.F.S. (Central Flying School) Upavon, Wiltshire & appointed as Flying Officer on 26th February, 1917.

Second Lieutenant Alan D'Arcy Sutherland was at C.F.S. (Central Flying School) Upavon, Wiltshire on 28th February, 1917 when he was flying a Sopwith 1½ Strutter serial number 7810.



Sopwith 1½ Strutter



Central Flying School, Upavon, Wiltshire - 1913

Second Lieutenant Alan D'Arcy Sutherland died on 28th February, 1917 as a result of an aeroplane accident. (Some forms in the Service Record file have Second Lieutenant Sutherland's date of death as 28th March, 1917)

A death for Allan D'a. Sutherland, aged 26, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Pewsey, Wiltshire, England.

A Court of Inquiry was held into the accident on 28th February, 1917 & The Court were "*of the opinion that the accident was caused by excessive strain being put on the machine. Error of judgement on the part of the pilot.*"

Newspaper item – Western Daily Press, Bristol, England – 2 March, 1917:

AEROPLANE FATALITIES

Inquests were held yesterday on two officers killed while flying in Wilts. Their names were Second-Lieut. Harold Tom White, of Southsea and Second-Lieut. Allan D'Arcy Sutherland, of the London branch of the Commonwealth Bank of Australia. Both the machines used were in perfect order, and verdicts of "Accidental death" were returned.

(Note – Second Lieutenant Harold Tom White died on 27th February, 1917 in a separate accident)

Second Lieutenant Alan D'Arcy Sutherland was buried in Upavon Cemetery, Upavon, Wiltshire, England – Plot number 10 and has a Private headstone. His death is still acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Second Lieutenant Alan D'Arcy Sutherland was entitled to British War Medal only as he had not entered a Theatre of War. A letter from Department of Defence, Australian Imperial Force in October, 1921 to The Secretary, Air Ministry, London, advised that "*2nd Lieutenant Alan D'A Sutherland, 48th Battalion had by his service with the Australian Imperial Force from 12th August, 1915 to 22nd October, 1916 qualified for the British War Medal but in consequence of his subsequent service with a commission in the Royal Flying Corps no medals will be administered by the Department of Defence, Australia, the same to be issued by the Air Ministry.*"

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Second Lieutenant A. D. A. Sutherland, of Royal Flying Corps, formerly 48th Battalion, Australian Infantry, A.I.F. He was the husband of F. L. Sutherland, of Minlaton, Yorke Peninsula, South Australia.

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

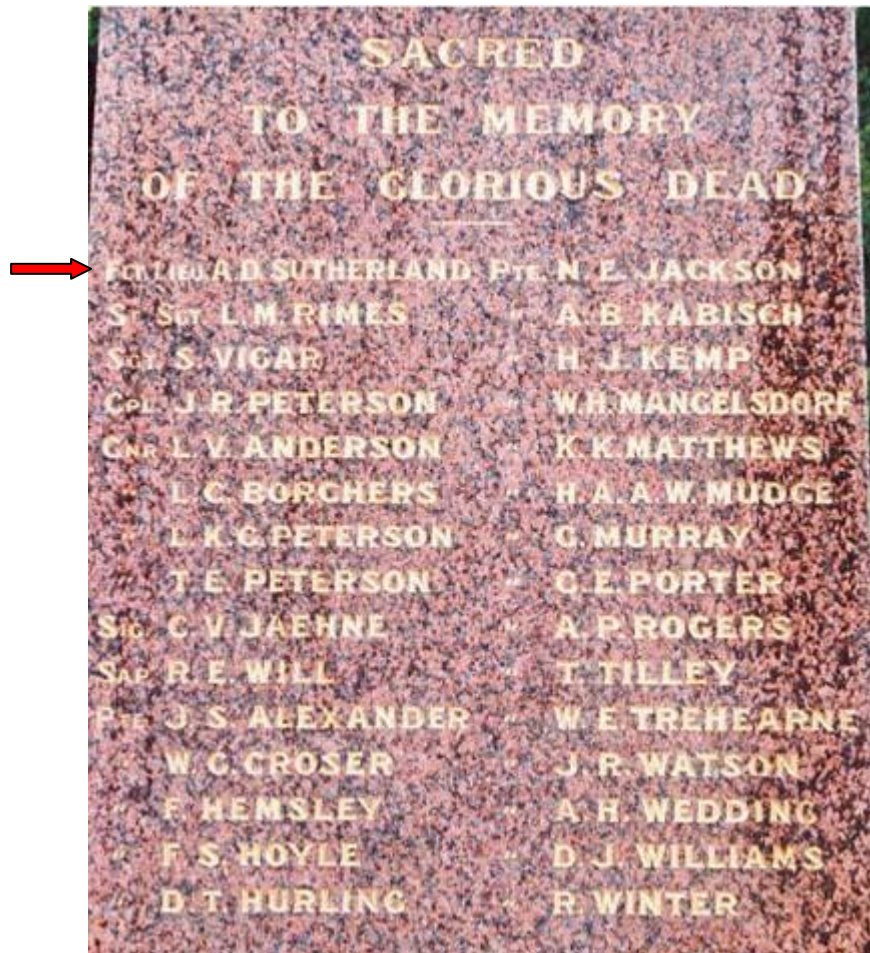


Commemorative Area of the Australian War Memorial (Capital Photographer)

Flt. Lieut. A. D. Sutherland is remembered on the Minlaton War Memorial, located on Main Street, Minlaton, South Australia.



Minlaton War Memorial (Photo by Mattinbgn)



(62 pages of Second Lieutenant Alan D'Arcy Sutherland's Army Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial & National Archives



Alan D'Arcy Sutherland

Newspaper Notices

TWO AUSTRALIAN AVIATORS ARE KILLED IN ENGLAND

(United Service Special Cable)

LONDON. Friday.

Flight Sub-Lieutenants Harold White and Alan Sutherland formerly of the Commonwealth Bank, have been killed while flying in England.

Flight Sub-Lieutenant Alan D'Arcy Sutherland who was 28 years of age, was a South Australian officer, having received an appointment as second lieutenant in the 48th Infantry Battalion on December 16, 1916. After having seen active service in France, he joined the Royal Flying Corps on October 23 last, and was undergoing a course of training at the time of his death. It is not known whether Flight Sub-Lieutenant Harold White was a member of the Australian Imperial Force before he joined the Royal Flying Corps. Inquiry in Melbourne indicates that he was not a Victorian officer.

(*The Herald*, Melbourne, Victoria – 3 March, 1917) & (*Weekly Times*, Melbourne, Victoria – 10 March, 1917)

DIED ON ACTIVE SERVICE

SUTHERLAND - Accidentally killed in England, Flight-Lieutenant Alan D'Arcy Sutherland, Royal Flying Corps, dearly loved husband of Elsie Sutherland, Minlaton, and only son of Mrs and the late H. D. Sutherland, aged 27 years.

(*The Advertiser*, Adelaide, South Australia – 5 March, 1917) &

(*The Express and Telegraph*, Adelaide, South Australia – 5 March, 1917) &

(*Chronicle*, Adelaide, South Australia – 10 March, 1917)

FOR KING AND COUNTRY

SUTHERLAND - Accidentally killed in England, Flight-Lieutenant Alan D'Arcy Sutherland, Royal Flying Corps, dearly loved husband of Elsie Sutherland, Minlaton, and only son of Mrs and the late H. D. Sutherland, aged 27 years.

(*The Journal*, Adelaide, South Australia – 5 March, 1917) & (*The Register*, Adelaide, South Australia – 8 March, 1917)

& (*Observer*, Adelaide, South Australia – 10 March, 1917)

An Appreciation by W. D. Young

Alan Sutherland has gone ! Big hearted, happy-go-lucky, in the prime of life, it is hard to realize that he will not return. His photo taken with the Minlaton football premiership team, of 1914, is before me as I write. Eleven others of that eighteen have also donned the khaki and he is the second of them to make the supreme sacrifice. He came to Minlaton about eleven years ago, almost a weakling. The change from city life worked wonders. He remained here and grew into a fine specimen of an athlete. He excelled at most sports; in football, cricket, shooting- tennis, golf, swimming, rowing, boxing, and cycling, he was an enthusiast, and, as good athletes generally make good soldiers, so it was with him. He was not long in the ranks before he obtained a commission. His undoubted ability and fine commanding voice standing in good stead. Had he been spared, further promotion must have come to him. As employee first, and later as local manager of Bagot, Shakes & Lewis, Ltd.. the late Lieut. was perhaps best known. The whole length and breadth of the Peninsula knew him and I venture to say that the war will claim no one from this district more widely known or more popular. That he enlisted for active service was only to be expected of him. He

was always ready to help a comrade. Often on the football field have I seen him protecting the smaller and less robust players, and when the call came to lend a hand in the more dangerous game he was not a shirker. His very presence on the football field gave the younger men courage. He could give a bump and with a smile take one. He was afraid of no one and fearless of personal risk. Probably it was that fearlessness that cost "Suthie" his life. Anything with a spice of more than ordinary danger found him eager to join in.

I had a letter from another member of the Flying Corps a few weeks ago. The writer stated that after experiencing the thrill of flying, nothing would satisfy Alan but to join the more risky branch of the army service. With what disastrous result! I never imagined Suthie being killed. He was so daring that I thought his luck would carry him through. He would have much preferred when the time came to have been killed in the firing line. Although killed accidentally, he died doing his duty no less than those other brave fellows who have gone under in actual fighting. The deepest sympathy of the whole district will, I am sure go out to Mrs Sutherland and her two little children in their great loss.

Alan Sutherland has gone. He was called to make the supreme sacrifice. So mote it be !

(The Pioneer, Yorketown, South Australia – 14 March, 1917)

BIOGRAPHICAL

LATE FLIGHT-LIEUT. A. D. SUTHERLAND

Flight-Lieut. Alan D'Arcy Sutherland, whose death was reported by cable on February 28, was the only son of the late Mr. H. D. Sutherland (late South Australian manager of the National Bank of Australasia, Limited). He enlisted for active service shortly after the outbreak of war. He received his appointment as lieutenant in the 48th Infantry Battalion on December 16, 1915, and after active service both in Egypt and France, he was transferred to the Royal Flying Corps, where he subsequently attained his pilot's certificate. He met his death while engaged in scout flying. He was educated at St. Peter's College, and in addition to a successful scholastic career, he was prominent in the football and cricket field. After leaving school he joined his uncle, Mr. R. A. Ford, of Yorke's Peninsula, the well-known stock and general auctioneer. Later he represented Messrs. Bagot, Shakes, & Lewis, and subsequently went into partnership with Mr. Davies, of Minlaton. The deceased was actively engaged in business up to the date of his enlistment. He was regarded as an apt auctioneer and a keen business man, and was also well known on the peninsula as an all-round sportsman and was popular with all. His wife (a daughter of Mr. W. R. Trehearne, of Minlaton) and two young sons survive him. He was 27 years of age.

(The Journal, Adelaide, South Australia – 14 March, 1917) & (The Register, Adelaide, South Australia – 14 March, 1917)

(Chronicle, Adelaide, South Australia – 17 March, 1917) & (Observer, Adelaide, South Australia – 24 March, 1917)

OUR FALLEN HEROES

Flight Lieutenant Alan D'Arcy Sutherland, whose death was reported by cable on February 28, was the only son of the late Mr H. D. Sutherland, manager of the National Bank of Australasia in Adelaide. Lieutenant Sutherland enlisted shortly after the outbreak of war.

(Southern Cross, Adelaide, South Australia – 16 March, 1917)

DEATHS

KILLED IN ACTION

SUTHERLAND – 28th February, accidentally killed in England, Flight Lieut, Alan D’Arcy Sutherland, of Royal Flying Corps, England, beloved brother and brother-in-law respectively of Mrs B. Peck, 37 Richardson-st., Boulder.

Duty nobly done for King and country.

(*Western Argus*, Kalgoorlie, Western Australia – 15 May, 1917)

FOR KING AND EMPIRE

SUTHERLAND – To the memory of one of the best, Alan Sutherland, killed on 28th February, 1917 –

Inserted by an Old Pal.

(*The Pioneer*, Yorketown, South Australia – 2 March, 1918)

Reflecting on men who epitomise our spirit

Two South Australian airmen from two world wars were honoured during Air Force’s 97th anniversary commemoration service in Adelaide on March 28.

SADFO RAAF Base Edinburgh AIRCDRE Joe Lervasi said in the last year of the Centenary of Anzac it was time to reflect on the service of the men and women at the “very origin of our Air Force and those who have made the ultimate sacrifice serving with the Royal Flying Corps and Royal Air Force (RAF)”.

“I would like to acknowledge two South Australian airmen – Les Clisby, who became a fighter ace serving with the RAF, engaged in fierce fighting over France during the initial stages of WWII, and Alan D’Arcy Sutherland, who served in WWI.

“The tales of Clisby and Sutherland serve to remind us of the courage and determination of our forebears in the creation of our Air Force.”

Current and past serving members acknowledged other key anniversaries – the 100th anniversary of the end of the Great War and the centenary of the formation of the RAF – during the commemoration at the Air Force Memorial, Torrens Parade Ground in Adelaide.

“On April 1, 1918, the RAF was established from the Royal Flying Corps and the Royal Naval Air Service as the world’s first independent air force,” AIRCDRE lervasi said.

“As sister organisations, the RAF and the RAAF have developed common bonds and heritage, and proudly fought and operated together around the globe.”

A P-8A Poseidon from No. 11 Squadron at RAAF Base Edinburgh conducted a fly-past over Torrens Parade Ground to start the service.....

(*Air Force* (Official newspaper of the Royal Australian Air Force) – Vol. 60, No. 5, April 5, 2018)

Upavon Cemetery, Upavon, Wiltshire, England

Upavon Cemetery, Upavon contains 75 Commonwealth War Graves – 35 from World War 1 & 40 from World War 2. The Cemetery contains men from Canada, Australia & New Zealand as well as the United Kingdom.



Upavon Cemetery, Upavon (Photos from CWGC)





Upavon Cemetery, Upavon (Photo from CWGC)

Photo of Second Lieutenant Alan D'Arcy Sutherland's Private Headstone in Upavon Cemetery, Upavon, Wiltshire, England.





(Photos by Geoffrey Gillon)

In

Loving Memory Of

ALAN D'ARCY SUTHERLAND

R.F.C.

Born South Australia

Killed On Duty 1917



Lancelot Robert Sutherland – son of Alan D’Arcy Sutherland

Newspaper Article – *The Sydney Morning Herald*, Sydney, NSW – 23 April, 1938:

PLANE CRASH

PAGEANT PILOT KILLED

Richmond Tragedy

FATAL PRACTICE FLIGHT.

While practising a "slow, upward roll" at the Richmond Aerodrome yesterday, for the air pageant to-day, Pilot-officer L. R. Sutherland, age 23, of the Royal Australian Air Force, lost control of his machine, which crashed to the ground, and crushed him to death. He was the son of the late Mr. A. Sutherland of St. Peters, Adelaide, who was killed when flying at the war.

In conformity with Air Force tradition every pilot on the flying field was ordered aloft after the crash, and there were 80 machines in the air at the onetime flying over the wrecked plane.

Sutherland was to have taken part in the Air Force display at to-days pageant. Sutherland and another pilot had taken their machines aloft to practice aerobatics. Both machines were put into a slow roll. When Sutherland's plane—a British Bulldog—was only 50 feet from the ground he appeared to get into difficulties.

Spectators were horrified to see the machine get out of control and crash to the ground.

CAUSE A MYSTERY.

Pilots and officers who were watching the manoeuvres of Sutherland and his companion, raced to the scene, but they found Sutherland's body dreadfully crushed among the wreckage.

Death had apparently been instantaneous. It is not known what caused Sutherland to lose control of his machine, but pilots who witnessed the crash expressed the opinion that Sutherland could probably have recovered and gained altitude and safety had he not been so close to the ground.

Pilot officer Sutherland had been stationed at Laverton R.A.A.F. station Victoria, and had come to Richmond R.A.A.F. station with three other young pilots for the pageant. He had graduated at Point Cook. He was educated at St. Peter's College and Roseworthy Agricultural College.

