

**St. James Churchyard Cemetery,  
Dover, Kent  
War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**SECOND LIEUTENANT**

**A. A. WILSON-WALKER**

**ROYAL FLYING CORPS**

**20TH MARCH, 1916    Age 22**

*When You Go Home Tell Them Of Us And Say  
For Your To-Morrow These Gave Their To-Day*

## Alan Alexander WILSON-WALKER

Allan Alexander Wilson was born on 2nd June, 1893 to parents Alexander & Edith Gertrude Wilson (nee Cater). Alexander & Edith Wilson had four children – Dora R. Wilson (born 1890); Sylvia D. Wilson (born 1892); Allan A. Wilson then William D. Wilson (born 1894). All four births were registered in the district of Woollahra, Sydney, NSW.

Alexander Wilson, father of Allan Alexander Wilson, died in 1897.

Edith Gertrude Wilson, mother of Allan Alexander Wilson, married Charles Alfred Le Maistre Walker (Chartered Accountant) in Sydney in 1901. Births were registered in 1904 for Charles N. Walker & in 1912 for Theobald C. Walker.

Alan Alexander Wilson-Walker, along with his younger brother William Douglas Wilson-Walker, attended Sydney Church of England Grammar School. Alan Alexander Wilson-Walker entered the School on 11th July, 1904 & left on 20th June, 1907.

Alan Alexander Wilson-Walker was apprenticed to Warburton & Franki Ltd for 4 years.

Alan Alexander Wilson-Walker was a 21 year old, single, Electrical Engineer from "Coolagalla" Station Street, Pymble, Sydney, NSW when he enlisted at Paddington, Sydney, NSW on 19th October, 1914 with the of the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 720 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs E. G. Walker of "Coolagalla" Station Street, Pymble, Sydney, NSW. Alan Wilson-Walker stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served 3 years in the Scottish Rifles & had previously served for 8 weeks in the Imperial Expeditionary Force but was discharged as medically unfit.

Sapper Alan Alexander Wilson-Walker was posted to 1st Reinforcements of No. 1 Company, Field Engineers on 19th October, 1914.

Sapper Alan Alexander Wilson-Walker embarked from Melbourne on HMAT *Berrima* (A35) on 22nd December, 1914.

Sapper Alan Alexander Wilson-Walker was transferred on 26th February, 1915 to No. 1 Field Company & reallocated a service number of 249.

### **Australian Engineers in the First World War**

Engineers, also known as sappers, were essential to the running of the war. Without them, other branches of the Allied Forces would have found it difficult to cross the muddy and shell-ravaged ground of the Western Front. Their responsibilities included constructing the lines of defence, temporary bridges, tunnels and trenches, observation posts, roads, railways, communication lines, buildings of all kinds, showers and bathing facilities, and other material and mechanical solutions to the problems associated with fighting in all theatres.

*(Information from The Australian War Memorial)*

Sapper Alan Alexander Wilson-Walker proceeded to join M.E.F. (Mediterranean Expeditionary Force) from Alexandria on 3rd March, 1915.

Sapper Alan Alexander Wilson-Walker was admitted to 1st Australian Casualty Clearing Station (Cerumen) on 23rd July, 1915 and transferred the same day to 1st Australian Stationary Hospital. Sapper Wilson-Walker was transferred to Hospital Ship *Sicilia* on 28th July, 1915 with Otitis (slight) then transferred to St. Andrew's Malta with Otitis. He was transferred to St. Patricks Military Hospital at Malta on 15th August, 1915. Sapper Wilson-Walker embarked on Hospital Ship *Huntsend* from Malta for England on 7th September, 1915.

Sapper Wilson-Walker was admitted to 1st Southern General Hospital at Birmingham on 19th September, 1915.

Sapper Alan Alexander Wilson-Walker applied for a commission in the Royal Flying Corps.

Sapper Alan Alexander Wilson-Walker was discharged from the Australian Imperial Force on 6th December, 1915 due to being granted a commission as Temporary Second Lieutenant with Royal Flying Corps. He had served for 1 year & 49 days with the Australian Imperial Force. Sapper Alan Alexander Wilson-Walker was advised by Brigadier-

General A.I.F. (England) that “by taking your discharge in England you forfeited all claim to a free passage to Australia, now or at any time hereafter.”

Alan Alexander Wilson-Walker was selected for appointment as Second Lieutenant on the General List with effect from 7th December, 1915.

From the Supplement to *The London Gazette* 29 January, 1916:

*The undermentioned to be temporary Second Lieutenants for duty with the Royal Flying Corps:-*

*Dated 7th December, 1915*

*Sapper Alan Alexander Wilson-Walker, from 1st Field Company, Australian Engineers.*

Four weeks leave was granted to Alan Alexander Wilson-Walker from 7th December for instruction at Brooklands – from Australian & New Zealand Base Depot, Monte Video Camp, Weymouth as per request from Military Aeronautics One.

The Officer in Charge of Military Records wrote to 1st Field Engineers on 4th January, 1916 to advise that No. 249 Sapper A. W. Walker, 1st Field Company, Australian Engineers was located at “The Aviary”, Byfleet, Surrey.

Alan Alexander Wilson-Walker gained his Royal Aero Club Aviator’s Certificate (number 2273) on 14th January, 1916 at the Military School, Brooklands on a Maurice Farman Biplane.

In February, 1916 the address for correspondence for Alan Alexander Wilson-Walker was noted as c/o C. Theobald Esq, 11 Egerton Place, London.

Second Lieutenant Alan Alexander Wilson-Walker was attached to No. 13 Reserve Squadron, Royal Flying Corps located at Dover, Kent, England.

Second Lieutenant Alan Alexander Wilson-Walker died on 20th March, 1916 near Dover, Kent, England from an aeroplane accident.

Newspaper Report of Accident from *Dover Express*, Dover, Kent, England – 24 March, 1916:

### **AUSTRALIAN FLYING OFFICER KILLED**

*The inquest on Lieut. A. Wilson Walker, who was killed near Dover in an aeroplane accident on Monday at 11.30 a.m., was held on Wednesday afternoon by the County Coroner (Mr R. Mowl).*

*The evidence was that the deceased officer was returning from a cross-country flight, and was seen near the Dover end of the Guston tunnel to be flying at a dangerously slow speed and then to turn. The machine sideslipped and nose-dived 1,500 feet, striking the ground and smashing to pieces. The deceased was found strapped in the machine dead, his spine being fractured, skull fractured, and both legs and one arm broken.*

*It was stated that he was an Australian, 22 years of age, and had served all through the Gallipoli affair, taking his ticket January 10th, and had done sixteen hours' flying. The elevator, which was the only way of getting a machine out of a nose-dive, was in good order after the accident.*

*The Coroner expressed their sorrow at this gallant young officer's death; and the jury returned a verdict of accidental death.*

A death for Alan A. Wilson-Walker, aged 22, was registered in the March quarter, 1916 in the district of Dover, Kent, England.

Second Lieutenant Alan Alexander Wilson-Walker was buried in St. James Churchyard Cemetery, Dover, Kent, England – Plot number W.C.36 and shares a Private Headstone with his brother. His death is still acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Newspaper Report of Funeral from *Dover Express*, Dover, Kent, England – 24 March, 1916:

### **FUNERAL OF LIEUT. A. A. WILSON-WALKER**

*The funeral took place, with full military honours, at St. James's Cemetery, of Second Lieut. A. A. Wilson-Walker, Royal Flying Corps, who died on March 20th, at the age of 22 years. The officiating clergyman was the Rev. C. Haines, C.F.; and the band in attendance was that of the 6th Royal Fusiliers. The mourners present were Mr and Mrs Muggleton, Mr and Mrs Theobald, and Mr Keigwin. There were floral tributes from the officers of the R.F.C. (consisting of a large cross of white lilies 4ft. in length); warrant officers and sergeants, and from the corporals and air mechanics, R.F.C. The funeral arrangements were carried out by Messrs Flashman and Co., of Dover and Folkestone.*

Base Records contacted Mrs E. G. Walker, mother of the late Second Lieutenant Alan Alexander Wilson-Walker, in December, 1920 enquiring if there were any nearer blood relatives than herself due to the “Deceased Soldiers Estates Act 1918” which stated that the War Medals & Mementoes of a deceased soldier were to be handed in the following order of relationship – Widow, eldest surviving son, eldest surviving daughter, father, mother, eldest surviving brother, eldest surviving sister etc.

Mrs Edith Le Maistre Walker replied stating that Second Lieutenant Alan Alexander Wilson-Walker’s father had died in 1897 & that he had two sisters & two young stepbrothers & that she was the nearest surviving relation.

Second Lieutenant Alan Alexander Wilson-Walker was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. Base Records wrote to Secretary, Air Ministry on 8th June, 1921 to advise that the issuing of medals, in respect of the service of Second Lieutenant Alan Alexander Wilson-Walker, the 1914/15 Star would be awarded by the Defence Department, Australia & that the British War Medal & Victory Medal to be issued by the Air Ministry, The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Second Lieutenant A. A. Wilson-Walker, of 13th Reserve Squadron, Royal Flying Corps. He was the son of Mrs Charles Wilson Walker, of Pymble, Sydney, New South Wales.

Second Lieutenant Alan Alexander Wilson-Walker, of No. 13 Reserve Squadron, Royal Flying Corps, 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.



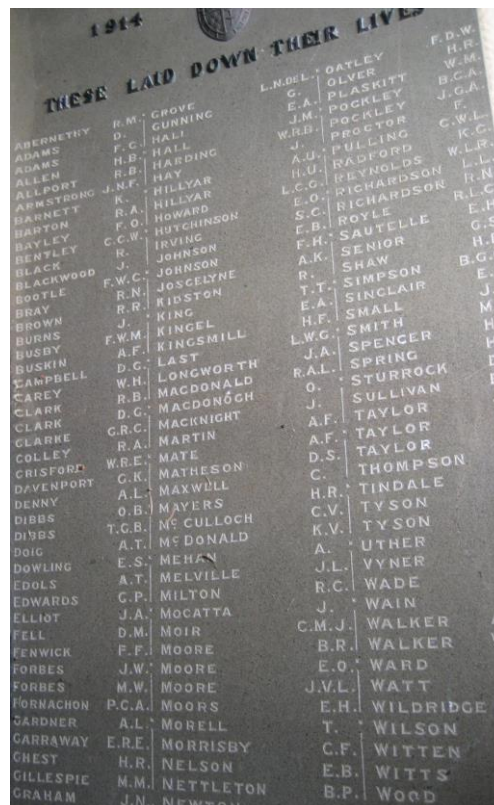
**Commemorative Area of the Australian War Memorial** (Capital Photographer)



A. A. W. Walker & his brother W. D. W. Walker are both remembered on the Sydney Church of England Grammar School (Shore) WW1 Roll of Honour located to the side of the entrance steps to grandstand building at the School's Memorial Playing Fields at Northbridge.



Sydney Church of England Grammar School WW1 Roll of Honour



(Photos courtesy of Kate Riseley, School Archivist, Shore School)

Alan Alexander Milson Walker is remembered in *The Torch-Bearer*, the magazine of The Sydney Church of England Grammar School, April, 1916 edition.

From *The Torch-Bearer*, the magazine of The Sydney Church of England Grammar School, May 1921 edition:

**THE CHAPEL.**

*Open Sunday was on March 13, when the address was given by the Bishop of Bathurst. During the service he dedicated tablets in memory of Alan Alexander Wilson Walker, William Douglas Wilson Walker, Frank Taylor, John Clegg Taylor, Oliver Clegg Taylor, John Butler Wood, and Throsby Morrell.*

Alan Alexander Wilson-Walker & his brother William Douglas Wilson-Walker were both remembered on the Killara Golf Club Roll of Honour in 1916.

**THE WAR AND THE GOLFER**

*Killara Golf Club Honour Roll*

..... Driver William Douglas Wilson Walker, A.S.C.; ..... Sapper Alan Alexander Wilson Walker, 1st F.C. Engineers.  
(Referee, Sydney, NSW – 12 April, 1916)



**Killara Golf Club Roll of Honour 1914-1918** (Photo courtesy of Laraine Gray – Archivist, Killara Golf Club)

(Second Lieutenant Alan Alexander Wilson-Walker'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 Alan Alexander Wilson-Walker:**

Younger brother – Driver William Douglas Wilson Walker, 7162. Enlisted 28th June, 1915 & embarked on 30th September, 1915 – 10th Australian Field Artillery Brigade. Died of wounds received in action (Shrapnel wounds to abdominal wall & liver) at 1st Casualty Clearing Station, France on 18th July, 1916, almost 4 months after his brother. He was buried in Estaires Communal Cemetery and Extension, France – Plot III. H. 25. The cemetery contains 875 Commonwealth Burials from 1914-1918, of which 63 are unidentified. He was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & Victory Medal.

William Douglas Wilson-Walker is also remembered on the headstone he shares with his brother Alan Alexander Wilson-Walker in St. James Churchyard Cemetery, Dover, Kent, England.



**Estaires Communal Cemetery and Extension, France** (Photo from CWGC)



**Alan Alexander Wilson-Walker**

## **Newspaper Notices**

### **CASUALTIES AT GALLIPOLI**

#### **IN HOSPITAL**

AT MALTA – Spr. A. A. W. Walker, 1st Fld. Coy. Engrs. (Pymble)

*(Sunday Times, Sydney, NSW – 10 October, 1915)*

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### **CASUALTIES**

#### **NEW SOUTH WALES**

IN HOSPITAL, BIRMINGHAM

Spr. A. A. W. WALKER, 1 F.C.E., Pymble

*(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 21 October, 1915)*

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### **St. James Churchyard Cemetery, Dover, Kent, England**

St. James Churchyard Cemetery, Dover contains 719 identified casualties. There are 8 Australian servicemen from World War 1 buried here – 7 Australian Imperial Force soldiers & 1 Royal Flying Corps.

During the First World War, Dover was a port of embarkation for troops bound for the Western Front and between August 1914 and August 1919 some 1,300,000 Commonwealth sick and wounded were landed there. The port was bombed in 1915 and again in August 1916.

There are 373 identified burials of the 1914-1918 war here. In addition there are 19 unidentified burials, 9 of whom can be named as victims of the Zeebrugge Raid, and these 9 are inscribed on a Special Memorial on the Cross of Sacrifice in the Zeebrugge Plot.

In 1940, Dover was the headquarters for the evacuation of the British Expeditionary Force from Dunkirk and nearly 200,000 of the 366,000 British and Allied troops brought back during the operation were landed there. Throughout the war Dover was a particular target for the long range guns on the French coast and between September 1939 and May 1945 there were no less than 742 attacks by air raid and shelling.

Most of the 356 Second World War burials are contained in a special war graves plot at the far end of the cemetery. The plot, known as the Dunkirk plot, contains many graves from the Dunkirk operation. 22 of these burials are unidentified. There are also 8 Foreign National war burials and 3 non war service burials in the cemetery.

*(Information & photos from CWGC)*





**St. James Churchyard Cemetery, Dover**





Photo of Second Lieutenant Alan Alexander Wilson-Walker's Private Headstone he shares with his brother Driver William Douglas Wilson-Walker in St. James' Churchyard Cemetery, Dover, Kent, England.



*In  
Honoured and Loving Memory  
of*

**ALAN ALEXANDER WILSON-WALKER**

*2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant R.F.C .of Sydney, Australia*

*Accidentally killed whilst flying at Dover*

*20<sup>th</sup> March 1916, Aged 22 years.*

*He enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force*

*In August 1914, took part in the first landing*

*at Gallipoli 25th April 1915*

*And subsequently joined the R.F.C.*

*Per Ardua Ad Aastra*

*Also of*

**WILLIAM DOUGLAS WILSON-WALKER**

*Gunner Australian Imperial Force*

*Brother of the above*

*Who died of wounds at Armentieres, France*

*18th July 1916, Aged 20 years*

*"When you go home tell them of us and say*

*for your to-morrow these gave their to-day"*





(Photo courtesy of Mitchell Carr)