Willesden Jewish Cemetery,

Willesden, Brent, London

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



SECOND LIEUTENANT

A. G. LEVY

ROYAL AIR FORCE

25TH APRIL, 1918

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Alwyn Gordon LEVY

Alwyn Gordon Levy was born on 23rd March, 1898 in Sydney, NSW Australia to parents Abram (Bertram Abraham) & Harriet Levy (nee Waxman). His birth was registered in Sydney in 1898 (According to Canadian Expeditionary Force Personnel Files & Attestation Papers & Royal Air Force Officers' Service Records the date of birth was recorded as 23rd March, 1897.)

Alwyn Levy, aged 8, & his mother Harriet Levy, aged 34, were both passengers on S.S. *Sonoma* which sailed from Sydney, NSW, Australia & arrived at San Francisco, California, U.S.A. on 5th February, 1906.

Alwyn Levy, aged 9, & his mother Harriet Levy, aged 38, were both passengers on S.S. *Caronia* which sailed from Liverpool, England on 9th October, 1909 bound for New York, U.S.A. They both listed their last permanent residence as New York, U.S.A. & the name of the nearest relative from the country they came from was listed as (sister) Mrs Susman, 35W 96 Street, New York. The S.S. *Caronia* arrived in New York on 17th October, 1909.

Alwyn G. Levy, aged 12, & his mother Harriet Levy, aged 39, were both passengers on S.S. *Caronia* which sailed from Liverpool, England on 22nd October, 1910 bound for New York, U.S.A. They both listed their last permanent residence as Melbourne, Australia & the name of the nearest relative from the country they came from was listed as "Friend – Mr Waxman, Queen St, Melbourne." The S.S. *Caronia* arrived in New York on 31st October, 1910.

Alwyn Gordon Levy attended Columbia College to study engineering. He had graduated from Union College in Schenectady, New York.

Alwyn G. Levy, Student, aged 20, was listed as crossing the U.S./Canadian border travelling from Malone, New York to Montreal, arriving on 2nd June, 1917.

Alwyn Gordon Levy enlisted with the Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force on 7th June, 1917. His date of birth date was listed as 23rd March, 1897 & his address as listed as Windsor Hotel, Montreal. Alwyn Levy stated he was a "Student. Motor Cyclist" & had served with Students Training Camp in New York, U.S. His next of kin was listed as Bert Levy of 1104 Kenmore Place, Brooklyn, New York.

Alwyn Gordon Levy was assigned to Canadian Engineers - Signal Training Depot with a number of 2265613.

Alwyn Gordon Levy was approved to join the Canadian Royal Flying Corps on 28th November, 1917 with a number of CAN. 153057. He stated he was aged 20 years & 7 months & his trade was listed as "*Misc. Aviator Cadet (Student)*. He had served as a Divisional Signaller – Sapper for 5 months.

Alwyn Gordon Levy was posted at Toronto, Canada on 28th November, 1917 as 3rd Air Mechanic.

3rd Air Mechanic Alwyn Gordon Levy was discharged from Royal Flying Corps, Canada on 16th February, 1918 *"having been selected for appointment to temporary commission - Kings Regulation Para. 392 (xxviii)."*

Alwyn Gordon Levy joined the British Royal Flying Corps. His permanent home address was listed as 1104 Kenmore Place, Brooklyn, New York, U.A.S. & his next-of-kin was listed as Bert Levy. His special qualifications were listed as "three years technical training Physics, Mathematics, General Engineering, slight knowledge of French. 6 months service with C.E.F. (Despatch Rider) since joining R.F.C." Alwyn Gordon Levy has flown "solo on Curtiss N4 – 25 hrs 15m; dual on Curtis N4 – 3hrs 50 m; Avro – Graduation from the School of Aerial Gunnery R.F.C."

From Supplement to The London Gazette - 26 April, 1918:

The undermentioned to be temp. 2nd Lts. (on prob):-

17th Feb. 1918

Alwyn Gordon Levy

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2nd Lieutenant Alwyn Gordon Levy was posted to No. 42 Training Squadron at Wye, Kent, England (RAF's South Eastern Area, and was part of the 6th Wing in No 1 (Training) Group) on 20th March, 1918.

2nd Lieutenant Alwyn Gordon Levy was promoted to Flying Officer on 24th March, 1918.

On 25th April, 1918, 2nd Lieutenant Alwyn Gordon Levy was the pilot of a Sopwith Pup, serial number D4079, from No. 42 Training Squadron at Wye, Kent, England, under instruction in aerial fighting. At the same time Lieutenant Cyril Whelan, cousin of Alwyn Levy, was flying an Avro 504, serial number D4394, also from No. 42 Training Squadron, with Lieutenant Edmund Douglas Marrable as passenger. The Avro collided with the Sopwith Pup around 6.45 pm near the *Golden Ball* public house between Wye and Kennington, Kent, England. All 3 airmen were killed.

Second Lieutenant Alwyn Gordon Levy died on 25th April, 1918 at Kennington, London, England as the result of mid-air collision between 2 aeroplanes.

A death for Alwyn G. Levy, aged 19, was registered in the June quarter, 1918 in the district of East Ashford, Kent, England.

Newspaper item - Western Times, Exeter, Devon, England - 27 April, 1918

Two Aeroplanes Collide: Three Men Killed

As the result of a collision between two aeroplanes attached to an aerodrome in a South-eastern district, three airmen were killed on Thursday evening.

.....

An inquest was held in East Kent on Lieuts. C. Whelan and E. D. Marrable, and Second-Lieut. A. G. Levi, of the Royal Air Force. It was stated that Lieut. Whelan left the aerodrome with Lieut. Marrable as passenger, and crashed into a machine flown by Lieut. Levi. Both machines crashed to the ground. A verdict of death from misadventure was returned.

Newspaper item - Diss Express, Diss, Norfolk, England - 3 May, 1918

Collided In The Air

At an inquest in an East Kent village on Lieuts. Whelan and E. D. Marrable and Second Lieut. A. G. Levi, R.A.F., who were killed while engaged in air fighting practice, "Death from misadventure" was the verdict.

It was stated that Lieut. Whelan left the aerodrome carrying Lieut. Marrable as a passenger. Later he crashed into a machine piloted by Lieut. Levi. and the two aeroplanes fell to the ground. Marrable asked permission to go up; it was his first flight.

Newspaper item - Globe, London, England - 29 April, 1918:

AVIATION COUSINS KILLED

The victims of a collision 2,000 feet over a southern-eastern aerodrome on Friday were Lieut. Cyril Whelan, son of Mr Albert Whelan, the Australian entertainer, and his cousin, Lieut. Alwyn Levey, son of Mr Bert Levey, the Australian artist and caricaturist. Both were in the R.A.F. Lieut Whelan being an instructor and Lieut. Levey his best pupil.

A Requiem Mass will be held at St. Charles' Ogle-street, W., at 10.15 am to-morrow after which the body of Lieut. Whelan will be interred at St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery, Kensal-green

Lieut Levey will be buried at the Jewish Cemetery on Wednesday.

Second Lieutenant Alwyn Gordon Levy was buried in Willesden Jewish Cemetery, Willesden, Brent, London, England – Plot number Cx. 21. 4. and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

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The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Second Lieutenant A. G. Levy, of No. 42 Training Squadron, Royal Air Force. No family details are listed.

Second Lieutenant Alwyn Gordon Levy is remembered in the UK, British Jewry Roll of Honour, 1914-1918.

Alwyn Gordon Levy is remembered on the Columbia University Roll of Honour website.

Second Lieutenant Alwyn Gordon Levy by the remembered Victorian Association of Jewish Ex & Servicemen & Women Australia Incorporated.



Second Lieutenant Alwyn Gordon Levy 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)



Commemorative Area of the Australian War Memorial (Capital Photographer)

Second Lieutenant Alwyn Gordon Levy is remembered in the Canadian First World War Book of Remembrance – page 589.

Pr. Huston, William M.G.C. Pr. Huston, William Caal K.H.A. 21.1. Huger, Mired William, Caal R.H.A. 21.1. Huger, Alfred William, Caal R.H.A. 21.1. Huger, Alfred William, Cyc. Carps. S.A. Mithnes, Andrew Caswell, R.A.F. 21.4. Huger, Alfred William, Cyc. Carps. S.A. Mithnes, Andrew Caswell, R.A.F. 21.4. Huger, Alfred William, Cyc. Carps. S.A. Mithnes, Andrew Caswell, R.A.F. 21.4. Huger, Schort V. R.F. Capt. Incackwall locac Alexander, R.A.F. 21.1. Isaac, Vallacez Alexander, R.A.F. 21.2. Lackwan, Harold, M.C. 7-W.R.RO Cacket ackwan, Harold, M.C. 7-W.R.RO Cacket ackwan, Harold, M.C. 7-W.R.RO Cacket and Harold, M.C. 7-W.R.RO Cacket and Harold, Alther Bruce, A.F. 21.1. Jackson, Haing Arthur Bruce, R.A.F. 21.2. Jackson, Harold A.C. R.F.C. 21.4. Jackson, Harold Creensmath, R.A.H. 1.57. Jackson, Harold Creensmath, R.A.H. 1.67. Jackson, Harold Creensmath, R.A.F. 21.1. Jackson, Harold Creensmath, R.A.F. 21.2. Jackson, Harold Creensmath, R.A.F. 21.4. Jackson, Harold Creensmath, R.A.F. 21.57. Jackson, Harold Bernau, R.A		2 A.M. Kerr, Buthd James R.A.F. 2 I.L. Kerr, Roy Weakey R.A.F. 2 I.L. Kerr, Roy Weakey R.A.F. Capt. Kesteven. Bolshaw, Newton 16 S.K.R.S.C. Pra. Kied, John Hay 2 14 Lar.A.F. 2 Part Kesteven. Bolshaw, Newton 16 S.K.R.S.C. Pra. Kied, John Hay 2 14 Lar.A.F. 2 Part Kesteven. Bolshaw, Newton 16 S.K.R.S.C. Pra. Kied, John Hay 2 14 Lar.A.F. 2 Part Kied, John Guens R.F. 2 Part Lar.K. Kied, John Guens R.F. 2 Part Lar.K. Kied, John Guens R.F. 2 Part Lar.K. Kalan, Kabaon, M.C. 2 Caded Kurden, John Guens R.F. 2 Part Lar. Kabaon, M.C. 2 Part Land, John Villom R.F. F. 2 Part Lard, Archeld Barns R.F. 2 Part Lard, Archeld Barns R.F. 2 Part Land, John Gas Kabaon, R.F. 2 Part Land, John Gas Kabaon, R.F. 2 Part Land, John Basi Kabaon, R.F. 2 Part Land, John Basi Kabaon, R.F. 2 Part Landel Marsen Carbon R.F. 2 Part Lander Malam Basi Kabaon R.F. 2 Part Lander Malam Basi Kabaon R.F. 2 Part Lander Kabaon, Kabaon Basi Kabaon R.F. 2 Part Lander Kabaon, Kabaon R.F. 2 Part Lander Kabaon, Kabaon R.F. 2
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Extract from the Book - Here's to Our Fraternity: One Hundred Years of Zeta Beta Tau, 1898 - 1998:

At the time of the U.S. declaration of war, ZBT had grown to twenty-one chapters and three graduate clubs. Now, however, the ranks of both the chapters and the national administration were decimated as each day more and more left their posts to enter the armed forces. Several lost their lives, including **Brother Alwyn Gordon Levy**, a pilot who wrote to his fraternity brothers of the risks of training to fly a plane at the very dawn of military aviation. Colleges were taken over by the army for training purposes through the organization of the SATC (for Student Army Training Corps, although its critics derogatorily referred to it as "Saturday Afternoon Tea Club" or "Safe at the College"), and the War Department went so far as to prohibit fraternity meetings or initiations for a time as unimical to the war effort. Soon the entire running of the national fraternity fell upon the shoulders of Samuel Stark, a graduate of City College and Columbia known as the "Grand Old Man of Zeta Beta Tau," who almost single-handely rescued ZBT from complete disintegration.



Alwyn Gordon Levy

Newspaper Notices

DIED ON SERVICE

LEVY – Killed in an aeroplane collision in England, about 25th April, 1918, Lieutenant Alwyn Levy, loved and only child of Mr and Mrs Bert Levy, Brooklyn, New York, loving grandson of Mrs S. Levy, Park street, St. Kilda.

LEVY – Killed in an aeroplane collision in England, about 25th April, 1918, Lieutenant Alwyn Levy, loved and only child of Mr and Mrs Bert Levy, Brooklyn, New York, beloved nephew of Cr. Joseph Waxman, Mrs Aaron Blashki (Sydney) and Mrs Hyman White.

(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia – 4 May, 1918)

News has been received by Mr Reub. Levy that his nephew, Flight Lieutenant Alwyn Levy, aged 20, the only son of Mr Bert Levy, the Australian artist, now resident in New York, was accidentally killed by the result of a collision in midair near London. The lad enlisted with the Canadian Flying Corps. ON the same day his cousin, Flight Lieutenant Cyril Whelan, the eldest son of Mr Albert Whelan, the Australian actor, now in London, was killed in a similar collision. Both lads are nephews of Mrs A. Blashki, of Potts Point.

(The Sun, Sydney, NSW, Australia - 10 May, 1918)

AVIATORS FALL

TWO COUSINS COLLIDE

Flight-Lieutenant Cyril Whelan (Waxman) and Flight Lieutenant Levy, killed in a collision in England, were sons of Australians well known in the literary and theatrical world – Mr Albert Whelan, now residing in London , and Mr Bert Levy, now in America. Both fathers held leading places in literary circles in Melbourne some years ago, and both have since been successful on the vaudeville stage. Mr Levy revisited Australia a few years ago, and his entertaining caricature act proved a big hit on the Tivoli circuit. The cables give only vague details of the deaths, but it is surmised that the boys, who were first cousins, were manoeuvring at the base of the Royal Flying Corps, when they endeavoured to approach and signal each other, with disastrous results; or they may have been flying in the same machine as pilot and observer. Much sympathy is felt for the parents, but more especially for Mr and Mrs Levy, as their son was an only child, and just turned eighteen. Lieutenant Whelan was twenty-two years of age. The boys were nephews of Councillor Joseph Waxman, the late Mr Louis Waxman, Mrs Aaron Blashki (Sydney), and Mrs Hyman White. The Levy family have had a double bereavement, for Sergeant Albert Levy, M.M., who was killed on 25th March, another only son, being Mr and Mrs Jack Levy's boy, was a cousin. Both Lieutenant and Sergeant Levy were grandsons of Mrs S. Levy, St. Kilda.

(Table Talk, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia – 9 May, 1918) & (Jewish Herald, Victoria, Australia – 17 May, 1918)

According To Eve

Round The Week

I see amongst the airmen killed is Alwyn Levy, whose father was artist on the staff of this paper, and who later did brilliantly in England. He was the only child, and we are all sympathising deeply with the bereaved parents.

(The Bendigo Independent, Victoria, Australia – 18 May, 1918)

"SMILE AND CARRY ON !"

YOUNG AIR HERO'S ADVICE HELPS FATHER IN SORROW

LETTER USED AS SLOGAN

"If the news ever reaches you which sooner or later reaches every flier's parents, don't mourn. . . Smile and carry on, for I shall be standing by watching you both, but I will not be visible."

So wrote Lieutenant Bert Levy, who was killed while giving an aeroplane exhibition in London. The letter was| written five days before the accident took place, to his father, Mr Bert Levy, the well-known artist, who about 15 years ago left Melbourne with his family and went to America. There his talents as a caricaturist and black and white illustrator, were immediately recognised and widely availed of by magazine and newspaper editors and vaudeville managers. Since that time Mr Levy has travelled the world as a stage artist.

His son Bert, the bright, engaging little chap who used often to be seen clinging to his father's hand as he trotted beside him in the Melbourne streets, joined the Royal Flying Corps as soon as he was of age to do so. He was killed in circumstances related in the following letter from New York written by Mr Levy to a friend in Melbourne: —

"1104 East 21, Brooklyn, N.Y.,

May 27, 1918.

"Well, my beloved lad has gone. I'm sure he was glad to die an Australian - borne on the shoulders of his brother officers, his coffin draped with the Union Jack.

"Some of his letters, written before his death (and received by us from London after he was buried), are, at the request of Secretary of the Navy Daniels, being printed broadcast. The ono attached was printed by the Red Cross in thousands of journals, from coast to coast. My boy refers to David Warfield in Peter Grimm. You may remember that Peter Grimm was a kindly old soul, who, after his death, returned and mingled among his old friends. He was passing in and out among the members of the household— always, of course, invisible to them. He, in spirit, was always trying to smooth out troubles and misunderstandings, and trying to bring happiness into everyone's lives. The old fellow was so disappointed because, though he shouted, nobody could hear him, and he always complained because he could not get his messages (to his loved ones) over.

"My son was buried in London with full military honors on April 25. He collided with his cousin, Lieutenant Cyril Whelan, at 2500 feet in the air, while doing a mock combat for the instruction of junior officers. My boy was nineteen, and two days before his death was gazetted a full flying officer — wearing wings. I trust to God that your boy is safe.

"My wife and I are trying to live up to our boy's instructions— to smile.

"The young airman's letter, which was published throughout the United States as an incentive to aid in war work, was to the following effect:—

"If the news ever reaches you which sooner or later reaches every flier's parents, don't mourn. We Royal Flying Corps men never think of death. The only thing we may think of is the effect our passing may have on our dear ones. So if I go the usual way don't let dear Mumsy cry, wear black and all that sort of nonsense. Dad, don't get all upset. In the vernacular, of your profession, keep the show going—don't have any waits. Smile and Carry On. for I will he standing right by watching you both, but I will not be visible. If you don't smile I may feel like David Warfield in 'Peter Grimm,' struggling to ask you to do so, but unable to put my message over.

The secretary of Secretary Daniels, of the Navy Department, is a friend of Bert Levy, Senr., and after reading the above letter wrote to, him as follows: —

"I have received the letter written almost In the shadow of the fluttering wings of death. I handed it to Secretary Daniels, and with tears he asked me if he might read it to a great gathering of ministers at Atlanta. It is my heart's own wish that now and at all other times there may come to you a sweet solace and a healing comfort in the golden thought that your boy died a hero, and that from his words, almost prophetic, there went out a message that will be uplifting and inspiring to the world."

(The Herald, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia – 7 September, 1918)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

LEVY – A tribute of love and honour to my noble grandsons, Sergeant Albert Levy, 39th Battalion, A.I.F., who gave his young life for his King and country on March 30, 1918; and Lieutenant Bert (Alwyn) Levy (New York), of R.F.C., who made the supreme sacrifice on April, 25, 1918.

May God rest their souls.

To live in the hearts of those we leave behind is not to die.

(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia – 29 March, 1919)

Bert Levy, the artist-entertainer in "Get Together" in the New York Hippodrome, has received a letter from King George of England, together with a memorial plaque bearing the name of his son, Lieut. Alwyn Gordon levy, who was killed while in the British air service during the World War. Lieut. Levy was a former student of the University of Columbia, and is believed to have been the first Columbia man to fall in the war

(Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA - 19 March, 1922)

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.

Second Lieutenant A. G. Levy has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

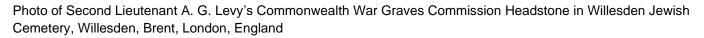
Willesden Jewish Cemetery, Willesden, Brent, London, England

Willesden Jewish Cemetery contains burials of both wars. Of the 33 First World War graves, six form a small plot by the assembly hall and 22 of the 78 Second World War burials form a separate plot. The rest of the graves are scattered throughout the cemetery. In place of the more usual Cross of Sacrifice, a specially designed memorial to men and women of the Jewish faith who lost their lives in both wars stands opposite the Second World War plot. The memorial is in the form of an obelisk and was the first Jewish national war memorial to be erected in the United Kingdom. *(Information from CWGC)*



Willesden Jewish Cemetery & below 3 Australian Headstones from left (Photos by julia&keld)







(Photos courtesy of julia&keld)

