Ss. Mary and Margaret Churchyard, Stow Maries, Essex, England War Grave



World War 1



SECOND LIEUTENANT

R. W. MOURITZEN

ROYAL FLYING CORPS 5TH JUNE, 1917

Of Perth, Western Australia
In The Midst Of Life
We Are In Death

Roy Walter MOURITZEN

Roy Walter Mouritzen was born in April, 1897 at York, Western Australia to parents Christian Frede Mouritzen (Danish Architect) & Jenni Hansine Carol Mouritzen (nee Berg). According to Denmark Church Records - Wolter Roy Mouritzen was born on 9th April, 1897 at York, Australia & he was baptised on 19th March, 1899 at Garnisons, København, Danmark (Denmark).

Roy Mouritzen (aged 9) was a passenger of Friedrich der Grosse which arrived at the port of Fremantle, Western Australia from Bremerhaven on 31st January, 1909. He was travelling with his mother – Jenny Mouritzen (aged 44) & siblings – Ulvert (aged 17), Ebba (aged 15) & Stella (aged 10).

Roy Walter Mouritzen attended Christian Brothers College, Perth, Western Australia.

Newspaper item - The W.A. Record, Perth, Western Australia - 12 October, 1912:

Christian Brothers' College, Perth, W.A.

A Record of Passes

The following pupils of the Christian Bros.' College have been successful in passing the Adelaide University Primary Examination held in August of this year.

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.... Roy Mouritzen.....
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The seventeenth annual sports meeting of the Christian Brothers College was held on the W.A.C.A. ground on Thursday of last week. An immense crowd was present to witness the various events, and every thing was gone through without a hitch. The results reflect the greatest credit both on the boys and on the officials responsible for the meeting.

The following are the results of the various events:

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...
440 Yards Junior Championship – Gonzales, 1; Mouritzen, 2; Riley, 3.
...
Junior High Jump – Mouritzen, 1; House, 2; ....
...
High Jump (Seniors) – Boor, 1; Seglison, 2; Mouritzen, 3
100 Yards Junior Championship – Gonzales, 1; Mouritzen, 2, Sellinger, 3
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Roy Walter Mouritzen played 1 game for East Perth, Western Australian football team on 1st August, 1914 & is remembered in the "Western Australian League of War Casualties" (information from Stow Maries Great War Aerodrome).

Mr R. W. Mouritzen, Scholar, aged 19, was a passenger on "*Kashgar*". He had departed from the port of Fremantle, Western Australia & disembarked at the Port of London, England on 17th June, 1916.

Newspaper item - The Daily News, Perth, Western Australia - 10 May, 1916:

Roy Mouritzen, late of the Christian Brothers' College, left yesterday by the Kashagar with the intention of joining the Imperial Aviation Corps in London.

Newspaper item – Sunday Times, Perth, Western Australia – 9 July, 1916:

Gone to the fighting front, Roy Mouritzen, 18 year-old son of Pa Mouritzen. Roy is the immediate jewel of the should and the apple of his dad's eye, and a proud Pa was M. pere when his boy sailed away on the transport en route for somewhere north of the Equator. At college young Roy excelled in all branches of sport, and was always in the redoubtable fours and eights of the Christian Brothers' College when those sturdy lads pulled first through the finishing flags. In addition, he is a remarkable strong and agile all-round athlete, his family sideboard being liberally garnished with trophies of his prowess.

Newspaper item - The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia - 8 August, 1916:

Mr Roy Mouritzen, formerly of Christian Brothers' College, Perth, has arrived in London with a view to obtaining a commission in the British Army.

Roy Walter Mouritzen joined the 2nd Artists Rifles, 28th Battalion, London Regiment as a cadet.

Cadet Roy Walter Mouritz was posted to Oxford from 11th November, 1916 for training with Royal Flying Corps. He was transferred to 49 R.S. (Reserve Squadron) "Spittlegate" on 26th February, 1917.

Royal Flying Corps (R.F.C.) / Royal Air Force (R.A.F.)

The Royal Flying Corps (R.F.C.) was the air arm of the British Army before and during the First World War, until it merged with the Royal Naval Air Service on 1 April 1918 to form the Royal Air Force (R.A.F.). During the early part of the war, the R.F.C. supported the British Army by artillery co-operation and photographic reconnaissance. This work gradually led R.F.C. pilots into aerial battles with German pilots and later in the war included the strafing of enemy infantry and emplacements, the bombing of German military airfields and later the strategic bombing of German industrial and transport facilities.

The R.F.C.'s motto was *Per ardua ad astra* ("Through adversity to the stars"). This remains the motto of the Royal Air Force (R.A.F.) and other Commonwealth air forces.

(Extract from Wikipedia)

Royal Flying Corps Service Record file for Roy Walter Mouritzen:

Date of Birth Name of Person to be		Permanent Home Address Address				Surname Abourdge Present Service Engagement					5 }
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Roy Walter Mouritz was appointed Temporary Second Lieutenant – on probation with effect from 27th February, 1917.

Supplement to The London Gazette - 4 July 1917:

General List (R.F.C.)

The undermentioned cadets to be temp. 2nd Lts (on prob.). 27 Feb 1917:-

Roy Walter Mouritzen

Newspaper item - The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia - 3 March, 1917:

Mr C. F. Mouritzen, of Ord-street, has received advice by cable that his son, Mr Roy Mouritzen, has gained his commission in the Imperial Flying Corps. Mr Roy Mouritzen, who is only 19 years of age, was a student at Christian Brothers' College, and he left the State about nine months ago to join the aviation school. His numerous friends will be pleased to learn of his advancement.

Temporary Second Lieutenant was transferred to 54 R.S. (Reserve Squadron) at Wyton on 26th March, 1917.

Second Lieutenant Roy Walter Mouritzen was appointed as Flying Officer with effect from 25th May, 1917. (*London Gazette* dated 18 June, 1917).



Pilots Wings: RFC

Supplement to The London Gazette - 4 July 1917:

The undermentioned temp. 2nd Lts (on prob.), Gen. List, are confirmed in their rank:-

. . . .

R. W. Mouritzen

Second Lieutenant Roy Walter Mouritzen was piloting a Sopwith 1 ½ Strutter (A8305) on 5th June, 1917 out of R.F.C. Woodham Mortimer** (information as listed on Aviation Safety Network & Fatal Air Accidents in Britain Jan – Jul 1917. Other information suggests that the Headquarters & Administrative Centre only were at Woodham Mortimer & flights were located out of Goldhanger, Stow Maries & Rochford), 3 miles WSW of Maldon, Essex, England. On returning to the aerodrome at dusk he attempted a landing downwind 100 yards from a hut. He opened the throttle and rose in order to miss a marquee but struck a caravan (which had arrived during his flight), causing the aircraft to crash when it landed. The plane was damaged beyond repair & Second Lieutenant Mouritzen sustained a fractured spine.

(Information from Aviation Safety Network)

[Some sources state that Second Lieutenant Roy Walter Mouritzen was transferred to No. 37 Squadron at Stow Maries but his Service file does not list this.]

No. 37 Squadron, Royal Flying Corps

No. 37 Squadron of the Royal Flying Corps was formed at RFC Orfordness, Suffolk, on 15 April 1916 as an experimental squadron, but it was disbanded a month later when it was absorbed back into the experimental station at Orfordness. On 15 September of that year, it was re-formed, with its headquarters at Woodham Mortimer, and detachments at Rochford, Stow Maries and Goldhanger, all in Essex. The squadron operated a mixture of aircraft, including B.E.2s, B.E.12s and F.E.2bs. Its responsibilities included defending London against aerial attack, both by German Zeppelins at night and by aircraft during the day.

As a result of the start of large-scale attacks by German Gotha bombers, the squadron received several Sopwith 1½ Strutters in May 1917, with better performance than its existing aircraft, which struggled to catch the Gothas, and Sopwith Pup fighters were also received to counter the Gothas, although by August, the Pups had been withdrawn to form new Home Defence squadrons.

(Information from Wikipedia)

Second Lieutenant Roy Walter Mouritzen died on 5th June, 1917 from injuries sustained in a Flying accident.

A death for Roy W. Mouritzen, aged 20, was registered in the June quarter, 1917 in the district of Maldon, Essex, England.

A Court of Inquiry was held on 6th June, 1917 found that the crash was due to inexperience of the pilot.

Second Lieutenant Roy Walter Mouritzen was buried on 10th June, 1917 in Ss. Mary and Margaret Churchyard, Stow Maries, Essex, England and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Newspaper item - Sunday Times, Perth, Western Australia - 22 July, 1917:

The Late LIEUTENANT MOURITZEN

HIS EXPERIENCES AS AN AEROPLANIST

Just before his death in an air flight over Ostend Lieut. R. W. Mouritzen, Rhodes Scholar, and late of C.B.C., Perth, wrote home the following interesting letter to his parents:-

"The object I am up here for (No. 2 Auxiliary School of Aerial Gunnery, Turnberry, Scotland) is to complete fully my work with aerial guns. As you know, I have had previous instruction and practice with the guns, but in its minor stage, and now I am putting the polishing touch on. We do nothing here as regards instruction in flying, although we take the air now and again. But again this is connected with the gun, and do our firing on other machines by the aid of a fixed camera, of which the shutter is released when pressing the trigger, thus taking a photo, of our aim. This is a splendid idea, and we go through simpler tests first, on the ground. We also do actual firing from the air later at targets in the sea. So you see our work here varies a little, so it does not become boring. By the way, I may mention that I am flying a Sopwith two-seater scout and hope to when I go overseas. It is a lovely machine to fly, and often I take my hands off the control without the machine moving from its course an inch. It is fairly fast, and quick at manoeuvring. If I fly this type abroad my gun is fixed on to the machine somewhere near me, and being synchronised with the engine fires straight through the revolving propeller. Along with this I have got my sights fixed on to the bus in front of me, and when I want to aim I must aim the machine, which amounts to the same. My observer, sitting behind me, may have a Lewis or Vickers, but his one is pivoted, so that it will swing in all directions. So between both of us we have a jolly good range of fire.

"As regards my flying, I have got seven hours more to do, so you see I will soon. have my wings. When I finish here I shall go back to 54 R.S. and finish my time. I have done all my tests except crosscountry, and that is nothing. When I have completed my seven hours I don't know what will happen to me for certain, but expect I shall be sent to France. Do you remember Jack Hassell, who used to be a frequent visitor to the Military Club opposite the 'Old Perth?' He is in 68th Australian Squadron at Harlaxton, and is up here also at present. He has his wings. Flying on service is no easy task. There is different work for different types of machines. You have to fly in formation, have to know tactics in the air, and be able to throw the machine in any abnormal position. So it is not as it looks to one who does not know. That is what I was doing prior to coming here. About three of us used to practise fighting in the air and formation flying, etc. Another chap and I started trick flying, and now it is the usual practice of our flight. The other two squadrons with us are also beginning to take it up. I haven't been up for five days now, and I miss it immensely."

<u>England & Wales – National Probate Calendar – 1917</u>:

Mouritzen, Roy Walter, of Stow Maries, Maldon, Essex, second-lieutenant R.F.C. died 5 June 1917 at Maldon, Essex on active service. Administration (limited) London 22 November to Edgeworth Cambridge Lillie, attorney of Christian Frederick Mouritzen. Effects £151 16s. 7d.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Second Lieutenant R. W. Mouritzen, Royal Flying Corps. No family details are listed.

Walter Roy Mouritzen (also known as Roy Walter Mouritzen) 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)

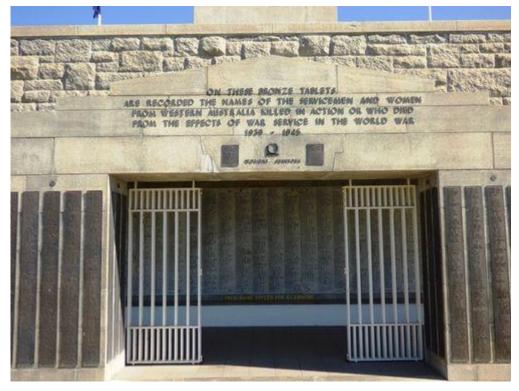
R. W. Mouritzen is remembered on the Western Australia State War Memorial which is located at the top of Kings Park and Botanic Garden escarpment, ANZAC Bluff, Fraser Avenue, Perth, Western Australia. The memorial was developed around an 18 metre tall obelisk as the principal feature, which is almost a replica of the Australian Imperial Force Memorials erected in France and Belgium.

The heavy concrete foundations are supplemented by heavy brick walls which enclose an inner chamber or crypt. The walls surrounding the crypt are covered with The Roll of Honour; marble tablets which list under their units the names of more than 7,000 members of the services killed in action or as a result of World War One.



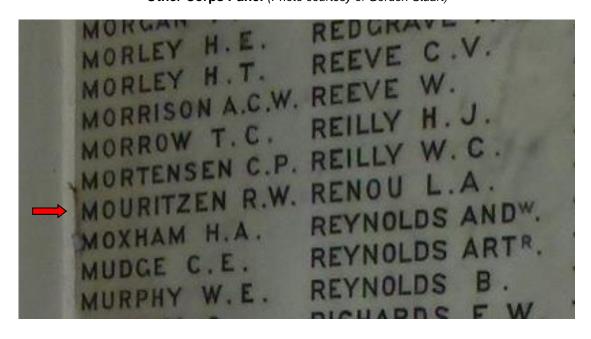
Western Australia State War Memorial Cenotaph, Kings Park (above)
& (below) The Crypt with the Roll of Honour names

(Photos from Monument Australia – Kent Watson/Sandra Tattersall/Graeme Saunders)





Other Corps Panel (Photo courtesy of Gordon Stuart)



Lieut. Roy W. Mouritzen is remembered with a Memorial Plaque (L383) on the Kings Park Honour Avenues. At the base of each commemorative tree is a plaque inscribed with details of the deceased: name, age, unit in which they served, nature of death, place of death, and who dedicated the plaque. Honour Avenue memorials commemorate service personnel who are listed at the State War Memorial, Kings Park. These soldiers enlisted in Western Australia, died overseas on active service, and were either buried overseas or have no known graves.



(Photos from Kings Park Botanic Gardens & Parks Authority)



2nd Lieutenant R. W. Mouritzen is remembered on the Stow Maries Aerodrome Memorial to the Royal Flying Corps personnel who died from 1916 – 1919, located at Hackman's Lane, Purleigh near Maldon, Essex, England.



Stow Maries Aerodrome Memorial (Photo from War Memorials Online – Paul Dyer)

2nd Lieutenant Roy Walter Mouritzen is remembered on the Aircrew Photograph Wall 1916 -1919, located at Stow Maries Aerodrome, Hackman's Lane, Purleigh near Maldon, Essex, England.



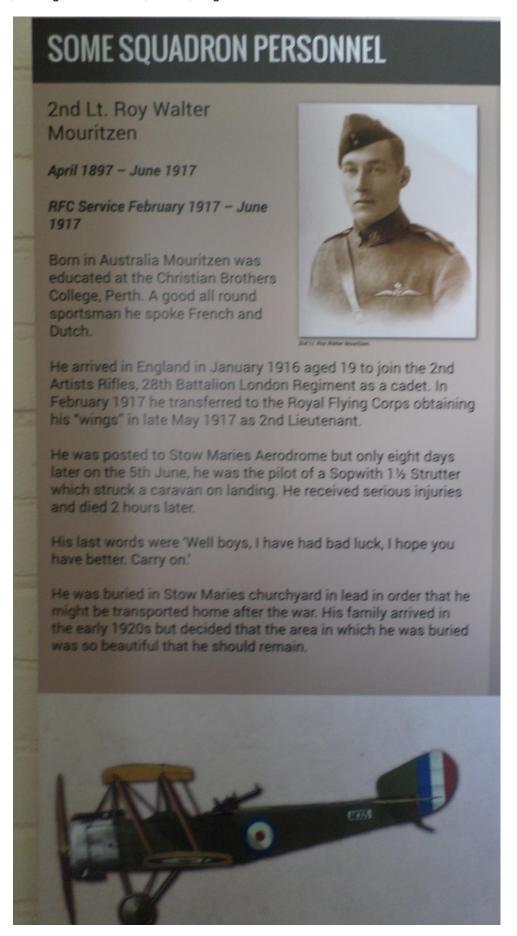
Aircrew Photograph Wall 1916 -1919 (Photo from War Memorials Online – Paul Dyer)

2nd Lieutenant R. W. Mouritzen is remembered on the Stow Maries Roll of Honour, located at Stow Maries Aerodrome, Hackman's Lane, Purleigh near Maldon, Essex, England.



Stow Maries Roll of Honour (Photo from War Memorials Online – Paul Dyer)

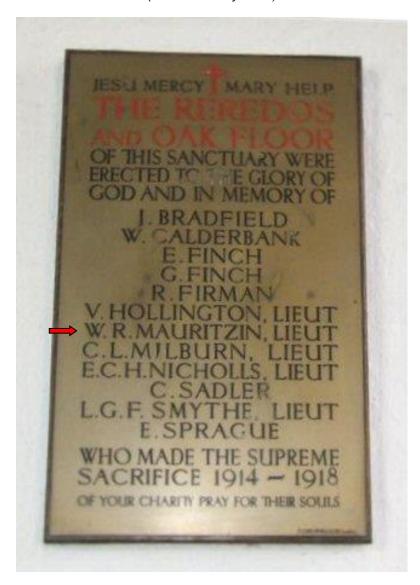
2nd Lieutenant Roy Walter Mouritzen is remembered on an information panel at Stow Maries Great War Aerodrome, Hackman's Lane, Purleigh near Maldon, Essex, England.



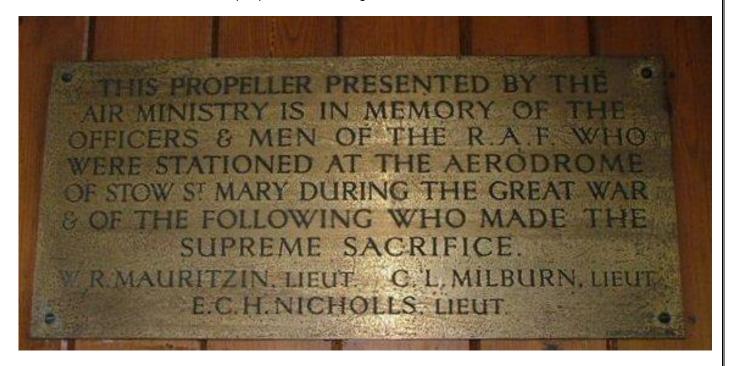
Lieut. W. R. Mauritzin is remembered on a Plaque in Ss. Mary and Margaret Church, Stow Maries, Essex, England.



(Photos Geoffrey Gillon)



W. R. Mauritzin is remembered on a plaque in a local village hall.



(Photos Geoffrey Gillon)



Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial (Commemorative Roll) & National Archives



Second Lieutenant Roy Walter Mouritzen

Newspaper Notices

THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE

PRIMARY EXAMINATIONS, 1912

THE RESULTS

The following is a list of the candidates in the primary examinations of the Adelaide University, to, whom certificates will be issued. The total number entered was 1,474, and the certificates issued numbered 876. The candidates have passed in: 1, English grammar, composition. and dictation; 2. arithmetic; and in two at least of the following subjects: 3, geography; 4, English history: 5, Greek: G. Latin: 7, French; 8, German; 9, Algebra; 10, geometry; 11a, drawing; 11b, theory of music.

......Roy Walter Mouritzen, 4, 10, Christian Brothers' College, Perth;

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 19 October, 1912)

ROYAL LIFE SAVING SOCIETY

ADDITIONAL AWARDS

The following awards have recently been gained in connection with the Royal Life Saving Society:-

. . .

Bronze Medallions:....Christian Brothers' College – S. T. Hill, T. A. Oliver, A. P. Boor, G. H. Newman, R. W. Mouritzen, J. A. Kilfoyle.....

(The Daily News, Perth, Western Australia – 11 April, 1913)

WAR CASUALTIES

The friends of Mr and Mrs C. F. Mouritzen, of Ord-street, West Perth, will regret to learn that their youngest son, Lieutenant Roy Mouritzen, of the 37th H.D. Squadron, R.F.C., Essex, was killed whilst flying on active service. Lieutenant Mouritzen was a student of the Christian Brothers; College and was 20 years of age.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 8 June, 1917)

KILLED IN ACTION

MOURITZEN – On Tuesday last, June 5, somewhere in England, Roy Walter, of the 37th H.D. Squadron, Royal Flying Corps, Maldon, Essex, the dearly beloved son of Mr and Mrs C. F. Mouritzen, of Ord-street, West Perth, aged 20 years.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 8 June, 1917) & (Western Mail, Perth, Western Australia – 15 June, 1917)

Mainly About People

The many friends of Mr and Mrs C. F. Mouritzen, of Ord-street, West Perth, will regret to learn that news recently came through from the War Office, London, that their youngest son, Lieut. Roy Mouritzen, of the 37th H.D. Squadron, R.F.C., Maldon, Essex, was killed while flying on active service somewhere on England, on Tuesday last.

(The Daily News, Perth, Western Australia – 11 June, 1917)

IN MEMORIAM

Anzac Heroes

MOURITZEN – In loving memory of my dear brother Roy, who was killed whilst flying on active service in Essex, England, on July 5, 1917

-Inserted by his brother.

MOURITZEN –In loving and fond memory of our dear brother, Lieut. Roy Walter, of the Royal Flying Corps, killed in action, Essex, England, June 5, 1917.

-Inserted by his loving sister, and brother-in-law, F. Norman Gibson, Mt. Lawley.

MOURITZEN – In affectionate remembrance of Roy, Lieutenant Royal Flying Corps, killed in Essex, England, on June 5, 1917.

-Inserted by Mr and Mrs Frank Gibson and Ethel.

MOURITZEN – A tribute to the memory of Lieut. Roy Mouritzen, R.F.C., killed in action on June 5, 1917.

-Inserted by his friend, B. J. Hallion.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 5 June, 1918)

In Memory of an Aviator

Mr. C. F. Mouritzen, of West Perth, recently commissioned Signor Pietro Porcelli, the well-known sculptor, to execute a medallion of his youngest son, the late Lieutenant Roy Walter Mouritzen, R.F.C., and Signor Porcelli has just completed the plaster cast. This is on view at Signor Porcelli's studio, at the rear of St. George's House. The modelling had to be taken from two photographs, one of the late soldier when he first 'joined up,' and the other of more recent date, and this made the task somewhat difficult. The result is, however, an excellent life-size portrait. Signor Porcelli has caught wonderfully the expression of his subject, arid his craftsmanship was commented on very favorably by the relations of the deceased. Lieutenant Mouritzen went to England in April, 1916, and enlisted in the Artists' Corps. Later he passed his medical examination for the Royal Flying Corps, and went to Oxford, for training, where he qualified as an aviator and in due course received his commission. He, unfortunately, met an untimely end on June 5, last year through an accident. Having gone up for a flight from a military aerodrome in Essex, he returned at dusk, and when close to the ground collided with a contractor's travelling caravan, which had arrived during his absence. The result was that he fractured his spine and died two hours later. The medallion when completed will be in beaten copper, and will show the subject in the uniform of the R.F.C. The work reflects the greatest credit upon Signor Porcelli.

(The Daily News, Perth, Western Australia – 22 August, 1918)

IN MEMORIAM

Anzac Heroes

MOURITZEN – In fond and loving memory of my dear brother, Roy Walter, Lieutenant, Royal Flying Corps, killed in England on active service, on June 5, 1917.

Inserted by his loving sister Stella.

MOURITZEN – In affectionate remembrance of Roy, Lieut. Royal Flying Corps, who was killed in England on June 5, 1917.

Inserted by Mr and Mrs F. Gibson and Ethel.

MOURITZEN – A tribute to the memory of my dear friend Flight-Lieutenant Roy W. Mouritzen, who was killed in action June 5, 1917.

Inserted by his old schoolmate B. J. Hallion.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 5 June, 1920)

IN MEMORIAM

Anzac Heroes

MOURITZEN – In loving memory if our dear brother Roy, Lieutenant, R.F.C., who was killed in action on June 5, 1917.

Inserted by his loving brother and sister-in-law.

MOURITZEN – In fond and loving memory of my dear brother, Roy, Second Lieutenant R.F.S., killed at Essex on June 5, 1917.

Inserted by his loving sister Stella.

MOURITZEN – In fond memory of our dear brother, Lieutenant Roy Mouritzen, killed whilst scout flying in Essex, England, on June 5, 1917.

Inserted by Mr and Mrs Norman Gibson.

MOURITZEN – In affectionate remembrance of Lieutenant Roy Mouritzen, Royal Flying Corps, killed while on active service, at Essex, England, June 5, 1917.

Inserted by Mr and Mrs F. Gibson and Ethel.

MOURITZEN – In memory of my dear friend, Flight-Lieutenant Roy Walter Mouritzen, who was killed in action on June 5, 1917.

Inserted by Basil J. Hallion.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia - 5 June, 1920)

Memorial Notices were placed in the Newspaper in 1921, 1922, 1923, 1924, 1925, 1926, 1927, 1928, 1929

Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstones

The Defence Department, in 1920/21, contacted the next of kin of the deceased World War 1 personnel 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).

(Information obtained from letters sent to next of kin of Australian Soldiers in 1921)

Second Lieutenant R. W. Mouritzen has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone with the following inscription:

Of Perth, Western Australia

In the Midst Of Life We Are In Death

Ss. Mary and Margaret Churchyard, Stow Maries, Essex, England.

Ss. Mary and Margaret Churchyard, Stow Maries has 5 commonwealth War Graves – 4 relating to World War 1 & 1 from World War 2.



(Photo from Stow Maries Village website)



(Photo by Julianna Savage)

Photo of Second Lieutenant R. W. Mouritzen's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Ss. Mary and Margaret Churchyard, Stow Maries, Essex, England.



(Photo from Stow Maries Great War Aerodrome Facebook page)