

Sleepyhillock Cemetery, Montrose, Scotland War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



FLIGHT CADET

H. K. PERCIVAL

ROYAL AIR FORCE

23RD SEPTEMBER, 1918 Age 28

Harold Kingsley PERCIVAL

Harold Kingsley Percival was born on 7th January, 1890 at Bulli, New South Wales, Australia to parents George Charles & Emily Elizabeth Percival (nee McCoy). His birth was registered in the district of Woonona, NSW.

Harold Kingsley Percival attended Sydney High School then Sydney University & Teacher's College in NSW.

Harold Kingsley Percival was included on the New South Wales Teachers' Rolls for 1907, having been employed.

The 1913 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Parramatta, NSW listed Harold Kingsley Percival, School Teacher, of Macquarie Street. Also listed at Macquarie Street were his parents - George Charles Percival, Clergyman & Emily Elizabeth Percival, Domestic Duties. His brother Cecil Humphrey Percival, School Teacher, was also listed at Macquarie Street.

Harold K. Percival was listed as Assistant Junior Staff at Technical High School in the NSW Public Service Lists for 1916, 1917 & 1918. His first appointment with the Department of Public Instruction had been 30th January, 1907 until 5th October, 1915.

Harold Kingsley Percival joined the Young Men's Christian Association (Y.M.C.A.)

Harold Kingsley Percival departed from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Aeneas* (A60) on 30th September, 1916 as Y.M.C.A. Field Secretary.

Harold Kingsley Percival was in charge of the Y.M.C.A. Depot at Westham Camp, Dorset, England before joining the Royal Flying Corps.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

H01180

Exterior view of the Y.M.C.A. Hut at Westham Camp - 1918

Harold Kingsley Percival joined the Royal Air Force as Pte/2 No. 137709 on 29th April, 1918. He was aged 28 years, his religion was listed as Methodist & his civilian occupation was listed as Teacher. Harold Kingsley Percival's next-of-kin was listed as his father – Rev. G. C. Percival, of Methodist Parsonage, Hill Street, Camden, NSW, Australia.

Harold Kingsley Percival was posted to C.D.D. on 29th April, 1918 then transferred to No. 2 Officers' Cadet Wing on 5th May, 1918. He was transferred to No. 1 School of Aeronautics on 8th June, 1918.

Harold Kingsley Percival was graded as Flight Cadet on 29th July, 1918.

Flight Cadet Harold Kingsley Percival was posted to 32 T.D.S. (Training Depot Station) (Group North Western at Montrose, Scotland) on 3rd August, 1918.

Flight Cadet Harold Kingsley Percival was piloting an Avro 504 serial number E1608 from R.A.F. Montrose, Scotland on 23rd September, 1918 when he attempted to return to the aerodrome, the plane stalled & spun into the ground from 100 feet.

Flight Cadet Harold Kingsley Percival died at 12.35 pm on 23rd September, 1918 at R.A.F. Montrose, Scotland from an aero accident.

A Court of Inquiry was held – No. 013840 *"The cause of the accident was due to an error on the part of the pilot in that he attempted to turn back to the aerodrome allowing his machine to get into a spin, and had not sufficient height to counteract it."*

Flight Cadet Harold Kingsley Percival was buried in Sleepyhill Cemetery, Montrose, Scotland – Plot number A7. 44. and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Newspaper item – Camden News, NSW, Australia – 26 September, 1918 (page 1):

AN AUSTRALIAN AIRMAN KILLED

FLIGHT-CADET H. K. PERCIVAL

Rev. G. C. Percival of Camden, received a cabled message from the office of the Royal Air Force, England, on Tuesday last, September 24th, informing him that his eldest son, Flight-Cadet Harold Kingsley Percival, had on the previous day been killed by an aeroplane accident during flight practice, at the Montrose Aerodrome, Scotland. Flight Cadet Percival was up to the time of his entrance on war work, a member of the staff of the Technical High School, Ultimo, Sydney. Finding that a physical disability prevented his enlistment, he entered on Y.M.C.A. work, and spent three months at the military camps in and around Sydney. On September 30th, 1916, he sailed as a military secretary, and until the end of April last, was employed at Westham Camp, England. Having benefited considerably by the English climate, he entered the Royal Air Force, and took a course of training at Hastings, and afterwards at Reading. From there he went to Montrose Aerodrome, to complete his training by a course in flight practice; and it was here that the mishap occurred which caused his death. Had all gone well, he expected to go to France in November on active aircraft service. He was an apt student, and was on the eve of his final examination for the arts course at the Sydney University, when he answered the call of conscience and duty. The study involved in his preparation for a commission in the Royal Air Force appealed strongly to him. In two out of the seven subjects he secured the maximum number of 100 marks, and in all but one of the remaining ones, he was well in the nineties. As a student of history, he was profoundly interested in the places he was privileged to visit in the Old Land during leave, and as a man he made many friends. His career gave promise of great usefulness. He would have been 29 years of age in January next.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Flight Cadet Harold Kingsley Percival – service number 137709, aged 28, of Royal Air Force. He was the son of Rev. G. C. Percival and Emily E. Percival, of Peat's Ferry Rd, Hornsby, Sydney, Australia. Born at Bulli, New South Wales.

Flight Cadet Harold Kingsley Percival 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*)

H. K. Percival is remembered on the Public School Teachers World War 1 Honour Roll, located in Department of Education Building, 16-20 Loftus Street, Sydney, NSW.



Public School Teachers World War 1 Honour Roll (*Photo from Register of War Memorials in NSW*)

H. K. Percival is remembered on the University of Sydney War Memorial Carillon, located at University Place, The Quadrangle, Camperdown, NSW.



University of Sydney War Memorial Carillon (Photos from *Register of War Memorials in NSW* – Vaughan Williamson)



H. K. Percival is also remembered on the University of Sydney's Book of Remembrance.

Arts III (e) : Flight-Cadet, R.A.F., B.E.F. and Y.M.C.A., A.I.F., England. Sailing 30th September, 1916, as Y.M.C.A. Field Secretary, was in charge of Depot at Westham Camp, England, until enlisting in March, 1918. Then served at Training Depots till death. Killed by Accident, Montrose, 23rd September, 1918, in final flight practice and buried in Montrose (Sleepy Bullock) Cemetery. Early education at Sydney High School. Later at Teachers' College.



H. K. Percival is remembered on the Methodist Church, Camden Circuit Roll of Honour, located in the now Uniting Church, John Street, Camden, NSW.



Methodist Church, Camden Circuit Roll of Honour

Newspaper item – Camden News, NSW – 20 March, 1919:

CAMDEN METHODIST ROLL OF HONOUR

A service to mark the completion of the Camden Circuit Roll, of Honour was conducted, on Sunday evening, March 16th, by Senior-Chaplain Rev: C. J. Prescott, M.A., assisted by Rev. Gr. C. Percival. The Mayor of Camden and the

© Cathy Sedgwick 2018

Aldermen were officially present by invitation, also members of the military, returned soldiers, and the Town Band, which impressively led the congregation in the singing of the National Anthem as a part of the unveiling ceremony. The attendance was unusually large, forms having to be placed in the aisles, and a number of the worshippers occupying the kindergarten hall at the rear of the church. Senior-Chaplain Prescott chose his text from Isai.li. verse 8, "For the moth shall eat them up like a garment, and the worm shall eat them like wool: but my righteousness shall be forever, and my salvation from generation to generation;" the theme of the sermon being the fleeting character of all earthly and material things, side by side with the absolute permanency of things divine and spiritual.

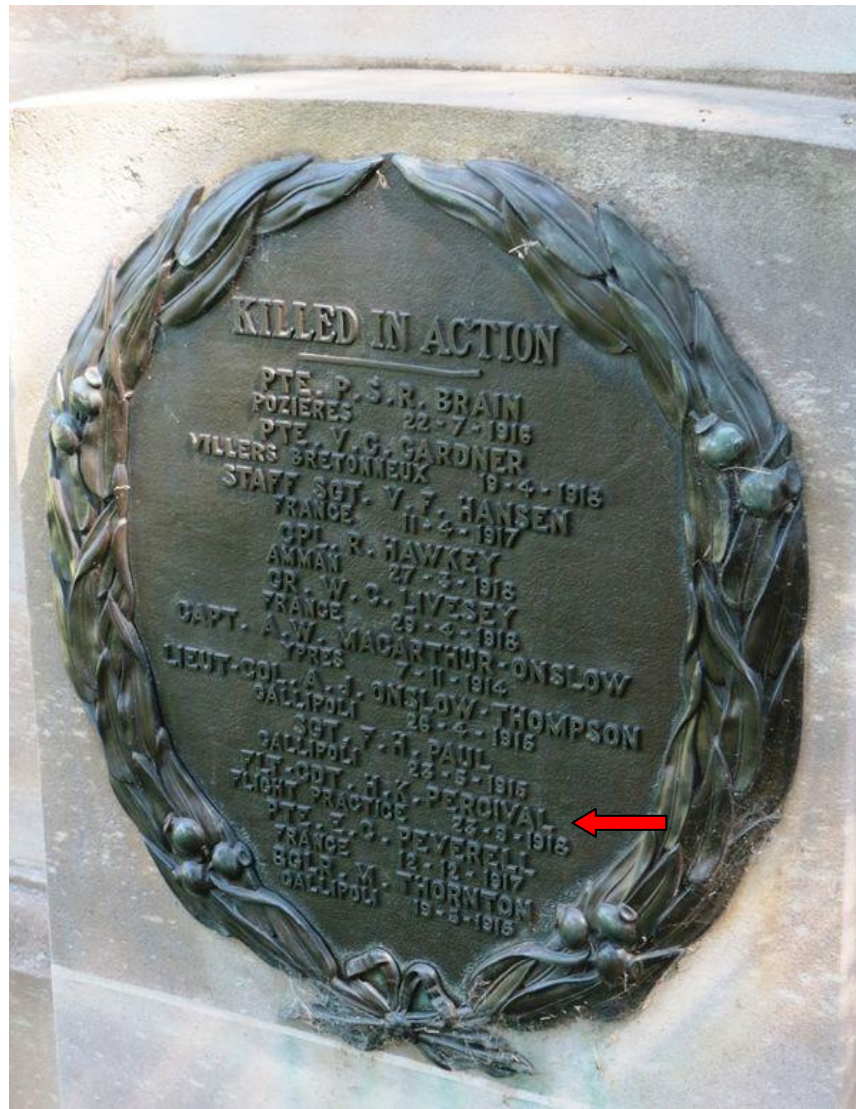
*Six names were added to the roll, making a total of fifty. The newly added names were: — H. Spurrier, T. Day, J. Greenup, A. Brooks, F. G. Dueseury, and **H. K. Percival**. Of these T. Day had been wounded, and **H. K. Percival** killed.*

In connection with the unveiling ceremony, which was performed by the visiting preacher, the Rev. G. C. Percival called the list of survivors, and Senior-Chaplain the list of those killed, the whole assembly reverently standing. The singing was specially suitable to the occasion, and was heartily joined in by all. Flags were used in adorning the building and for the temporary veiling of the additional names. The service throughout was profitable and impressive. A Union Jack, presented to the church by Mr. and Mrs. G. V. Sidman and placed permanently in the building, was displayed for the first time, floating gracefully from a pole at the rear of the rostrum. In making the announcements, Mr. Percival stated that, he would be thankful to have any further information as to those wounded, as it was desirable to make the record complete, leaving no case overlooked.

H. K. Percival is remembered on the Camden Cenotaph, located at Macarthur Park, Menangle Road, Camden, NSW.



Camden Cenotaph (Photos from Monument Australia)



Camden Cenotaph

Flight Cadet Harold Percival is remembered on Waverley War Memorial Hospital Operating Theatre Wing and Honour Roll, located at entrance to Waverley War Memorial Hospital, 125 Birrell Street, Waverley, Sydney, NSW.



Waverley War Memorial Hospital Operating Theatre Wing and Honour Roll

(Photos from Register of War Memorials in NSW – Peter Levarre-Waters)



Waverley War Memorial Hospital Operating Theatre Wing and Honour Roll

Flight Cadet H. K. Percival is remembered on the Montrose Air Station World War One Roll of Honour.

 Montrose Air Station  World War One — Roll of Honour		
Arthur. D.L. Lieutenant 27/05/1913 Royal Flying Corps, Montrose Sleepy Hillock Cemetery	Grayham. W.J.K. 2nd-Lieutenant 17/05/1918 Royal Air Force, Montrose Sleepy Hillock Cemetery	Percival. H.K. Flight Cadet 23/09/1918 Royal Air Force, Montrose Sleepy Hillock Cemetery
Alger. G.C. 2nd-Lieutenant 07/06/1917 Royal Flying Corps, Montrose Sleepy Hillock Cemetery	Grimshaw. G.H. 2nd-Lieutenant 08/07/1918 Royal Air Force Manchester Macclesfield Cemetery	Preston. M.E. 2nd-Lieutenant 23/09/1918 Royal Air Force, Montrose Sleepy Hillock Cemetery
Arthur. E.P. Lieutenant 24/12/1917 Australian Flying Corps, Montrose Sleepy Hillock Cemetery	Hall. J.H. Lieutenant 25/08/1918 Royal Air Force Manchester Bury Cemetery	Reid. C.D. NCO Cadet 05/09/1918 Royal Air Force Glasgow Craigton Cemetery

Newspaper Notices

BRIEF MENTION

Mr H. K. Percival, eldest son of the Rev. G. C. Percival, of Drummoyne, has been accepted for Y.M.C.A. secretaryship for service at the front. His younger brother, Mr Cecil H. Percival, left for motor transport service at the front early in May. Both the brothers are on the High School staff of the New South Wales Department of Public Instruction, the former being also in the third year of the University Arts course.

(The Methodist, Sydney, NSW, Australia – 8 July, 1916)

LOAFERS AND GIRLS

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD

Sir,- On Saturday night I was returning home by a late tram with my sisters, who, as usual in these times, were busy knitting. A fellow of about 25, a little the worse for drink, joined the car and immediately began to amuse himself at their expense. "See now I'm perling, now I drop one on the heel and turn. Are you decreasing? I am. There, I've got sixteen stitches on the front needle, and twenty-four on the back, what's next?" This to ladles who had not spoken a word; and his half-dozen male companions laughed at the joke. I interfered and at once the loyalty of his soul was roused, and he told me I ought to be at the war. I am at present in camp, wearing plain clothes, and will shortly be going to the front as a Y. M. C. A. field secretary, my brother is in Salisbury Plains Camp now, as a motor-driver.

It must not be thought that I am writing this to support conscription. It would be quite unfair, it would be undemocratic to get, such men to do their share in the war. Their liberty must not be tampered with. Before that happens the lesson of suffering insult in their own city must be patiently learned by lonely girls who knit socks in public places for the lads doing their duty abroad. The presence of these characters at home is necessary for the crowding of hotels and stadiums. But the lads in camp and at the front have an immovable faith in the real men and women of Australia to see that the noble-minded girls they leave behind are properly respected and taken care of in their absence.

Thanking you Sir, for making it possible, for me to reach such men and women,

I am, etc,

July 17.

H. K. PERCIVAL

(The Sydney Morning Herald, Sydney, NSW, Australia – 19 July, 1916)

WHEN STRONG MEN PRAY

Y.M.C.A. BATTLE FRONT SERVICES

Writing from France, Mr. H. K. Percival, a military secretary of the Y.M.C.A. with Australian troops, says: "Our Australian men do appreciate sacred music of the best kind, and, what is more, they will always stop and listen to a Gospel address; they will respond to it, too. On one Sunday evening recently I gave an opportunity after the address, and seventeen men signed the war roll cards. It is a treat to be at some of these meetings. God moves in them. Only last night His presence was felt especially— a weeknight service. I ran the singing and let a soldier speak — one of God's soldiers, and no mistake; a man who has been to France, and has suffered with them, and who has led many men to Christ. He gave the simple Gospel invitation, gave it in the strength given him by God, and I never experienced a more powerful appeal. It is great to hear these strong men pray; aye, strong because they have suffered and kept hold in Christ. We have all sorts of men in our circle from time to time. One of the most devout is a former pugilist."

(The Methodist, Sydney, NSW, Australia – 1 September, 1917)

AIR FATALITIES ON SCOTTISH COAST

Flight-Cadet Harold R. Percival, R.A.F., was killed while flying on the North-East Coast of Scotland yesterday. He was 28 years of age, and his father is a clergyman in Australia.

Second-Lieut. Maxwell E. Preston, R.A.F., was also killed yesterday on the North-East Coast of Scotland while flying. He belonged to Canonbury, London.

(*Dundee Courier*, Dundee, Angus, Scotland - 24 September, 1918) &

(*The Scotsman*, Edinburgh, Midlothian, Scotland)

(*Montrose, Arbroath and Brechin Review*; and *Forfar and Kincardineshire Advertiser*, Scotland - 27 September, 1918)

ROLL OF HONOUR

PERCIVAL – At Montrose Airdrome, Scotland, September 23rd, by aeroplane accident during flight practice, Flight-Cadet Harold Kingsley Percival, eldest son of Rev. G. C. and Mrs Percival, Camden, aged 28.

“Underneath are the everlasting arms.”

(*The Daily Telegraph*, Sydney, NSW, Australia – 28 September, 1918)

PERSONAL

The Rev. G. C. Percival, of Camden, has received notification that his eldest son, Flight-Cadet Harold Kingsley Percival, of the Royal Air Force, was killed in an aeroplane accident during flight practice at the Montrose Aerodrome, Scotland, on September 23. Flight-Cadet Percival was previously a member of the staff of the Technical High School, Ultimo, Sydney.

(*The Sydney Morning Herald*, Sydney, NSW, Australia – 2 October, 1918)

THE LATE FLIGHT-CADET H. K. PERCIVAL

Recent mails have brought letters to Rev. G.C. and Mrs Percival from their late son's instructor and fellow officers at Montrose Aerodrome, Scotland, giving particulars of the accident which caused his death.

It appears he had become quite expert in flying, having several times looped the loop and performed other necessary manoeuvres and flown at an altitude of 10,000 feet. At the time of his fatal accident, his machine was coming to land over the aerodrome, when a fault developed in the engine, causing the machine to "stall" - or fall perpendicularly - and spin.

Being less than 100 feet from the ground, there was not room for matters to be righted. Death was judged to have been instantaneous.

His instructor speaks in highest terms of his keenness and ability as an airman, and looked forward to his doing exceptionally good work in France, whither he expected to go almost immediately.

The funeral took place on September 25th, at Montrose Cemetery, with full military honours.

(*Camden News*, NSW – 21 November, 1918) & (*The Methodist*, Sydney, NSW – 23 November, 1918)

ANZAC ANNIVERSARY

Appropriate Ceremonies Throughout The District

CAMDEN COMMEMORATIONS

“For the first time I saw dead men —the impression has never left me — and it brought home the horrors of war,” declared the Rev. T. G. Paul, MC., an original Anzac, who fought as a Digger-officer in the 6th Victorian Infantry Battalion, when addressing a large gathering of district folk from the front of the Cenotaph in Macarthur Park, Camden, on Thursday last— the twentieth anniversary of Anzac Day.

“I was wholeheartedly for war in 1914,” he continued, “but ever since I have been wholeheartedly for peace.”

Other clergymen to take part in the service were the Rev. A. F. Pain and the Rev. S. R. Robbins.

Camden District Band, under the baton of Bandmaster H. S. Kelloway, led the gathering in hymns and, at the conclusion of the service; 'The Last Post' was sounded by Band Sergeant. A. S. Huthnance.

Around the base of the Cenotaph were a number of beautiful wreaths placed there in memory of the late Bugler Milton Thornton, of 3rd Bat.; Sergt. J. R. Poole, Signaller Eric L. Lowe, of 18th Battalion; John G. Adams, Victor Stuckey, C. M. Madkie, Staff Sergt. George T. McCallum, of 5th Divisional Train; and **Flight Cadet Harold K. Percival, of the Royal Air Force.**

Other floral tributes were from the Municipality of Camden, local friendly societies, and Camden ex-Servicemen's, Fraternity.

Perhaps it was the gallantry of the Australian soldiers at Pozieres, Bullecourt, Amiens, or some other terrific engagement to save her beloved France that inspired the wreath inscribed "In memory of the fallen soldiers.—A lady from France." A similar tribute was placed on the Camden Cenotaph last year.

(The Picton Post, NSW – 2 May, 1935)

Sleepyhillock Cemetery, Montrose, Scotland

The cemetery contains service plots of both wars here (the majority of which are 1939-1945). Most of these graves are of airmen and there is a special R.A.F. plot in the south-eastern part of the cemetery, near the lodge. South of the north gate is an all services plot.

There are 39 War Graves from World War 1, 1914-1918 and 93 War Graves from World War 2 commemorated in this site.



(Photo by Delboy – Scottish War Graves Project)



Sleepyhillock Cemetery, Montrose, Scotland *(Photos from CWGC)*



Photo of Flight Cadet H. K. Percival's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Sleepyhillock Cemetery, Montrose, Scotland.



(Headstone photo courtesy of Neil Werninck)



Flight Cadet H. K. Percival's CWGC Headstone (second from right)

in line with the WW1 Airmen at Sleepyhill Cemetery

(Headstone photos courtesy of Neil Werninck)