

# Durrington War Graves

## World War 1



*Lest We Forget*



SECOND LIEUTENANT

**C. A. MCGILLIVRAY**

ROYAL FLYING CORPS

14TH FEBRUARY, 1918



## Charles Allister McGILLIVRAY

Charles Allister McGillivray was born on 27<sup>th</sup> July, 1899 in Whitby, Ontario, Canada to parents Theodore Augustus & Helen McGillivray (nee MacLaren).

The 1901 Census of Canada recorded Charles A. McGillivray as a 1 year old living with his family at Whitby Town, Ontario, Canada. His parents were listed as Theodore (Barrister, aged 38) & Helen McGillivray (aged 32). Also listed was Donald John McGillivray (aged 4). Also listed was Georgina McLaren (aged 62, mother of Helen) & Lizzie Perry (aged 34, Domestic).

Charles Allister McGillivray attested as a Cadet with Royal Flying Corps at Toronto on 4<sup>th</sup> June, 1917. He was aged 17 years & 11 months & his address was listed as Whitley, Ontario. He had previously served as a Cadet in R. M. College, Kingston & was discharged from there June, 1917

When World War 1 began, Canada did not have its own air force and, until the RFC established training camps in Canada in January 1917, the only way for a Canadian to become a war pilot was to enlist in the regular forces and try to transfer to the air service, or to travel at his own expense to England and attempt to enlist directly. It is impossible to determine the exact number of Canadians who joined the RFC, but it is estimated that over 20,000 Canadians had joined the British flying services by the end of World War 1.

Charles Allister McGillivray was appointed Flying Officer on 21<sup>st</sup> November, 1917. His next-of-kin was listed as his father – Judge McGillivray, Whitley, Ontario, Canada.

Second Lieutenant Charles Allister McGillivray was attached to 109 Squadron at Salisbury, Wiltshire, England.

Second Lieutenant Charles Allister McGillivray was killed on 14<sup>th</sup> February, 1918 in an Aero accident at Salisbury Plain, Wiltshire. No other persons were on board.

A Court of Enquiry was held – “The Court viewed the wreckage and duly considered the evidence & are of opinion that the machine was in apparent perfect condition when in left the ground. The accident was due to the fact that the extension or extensions of the tab plane or planes broke in the air from a cause or causes unknown. No blame attached to anyone.”

A death for Charles A. McGillivray, aged 18, was registered in the March quarter, 1918 in the district of Amesbury, Wiltshire, England.

Second Lieutenant Charles Allister McGillivray was buried in Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire in Grave / Plot Number 271 on 18<sup>th</sup> February, 1918. His death is acknowledged by Commonwealth War Graves Commission & as such he has a CWGC headstone.

The Medal Index Card for Second Lieutenant Charles Allister McGillivray of Royal Flying Corps shows that he was entitled to the British War Medal. His next of kin was listed as Judge T. A. McGillivray (Father) of Whitby, Ontario, Canada.

The Canadian Great War Project lists Second Lieutenant Charles Allister McGillivray as having been killed in flying training accident. Son of Judge McGillivray of Oshawa, Ontario

Second Lieutenant Charles Allister McGillivray is remembered on page 590 of the Canadian First World War Book of Remembrance, Canadian Virtual War Memorial.

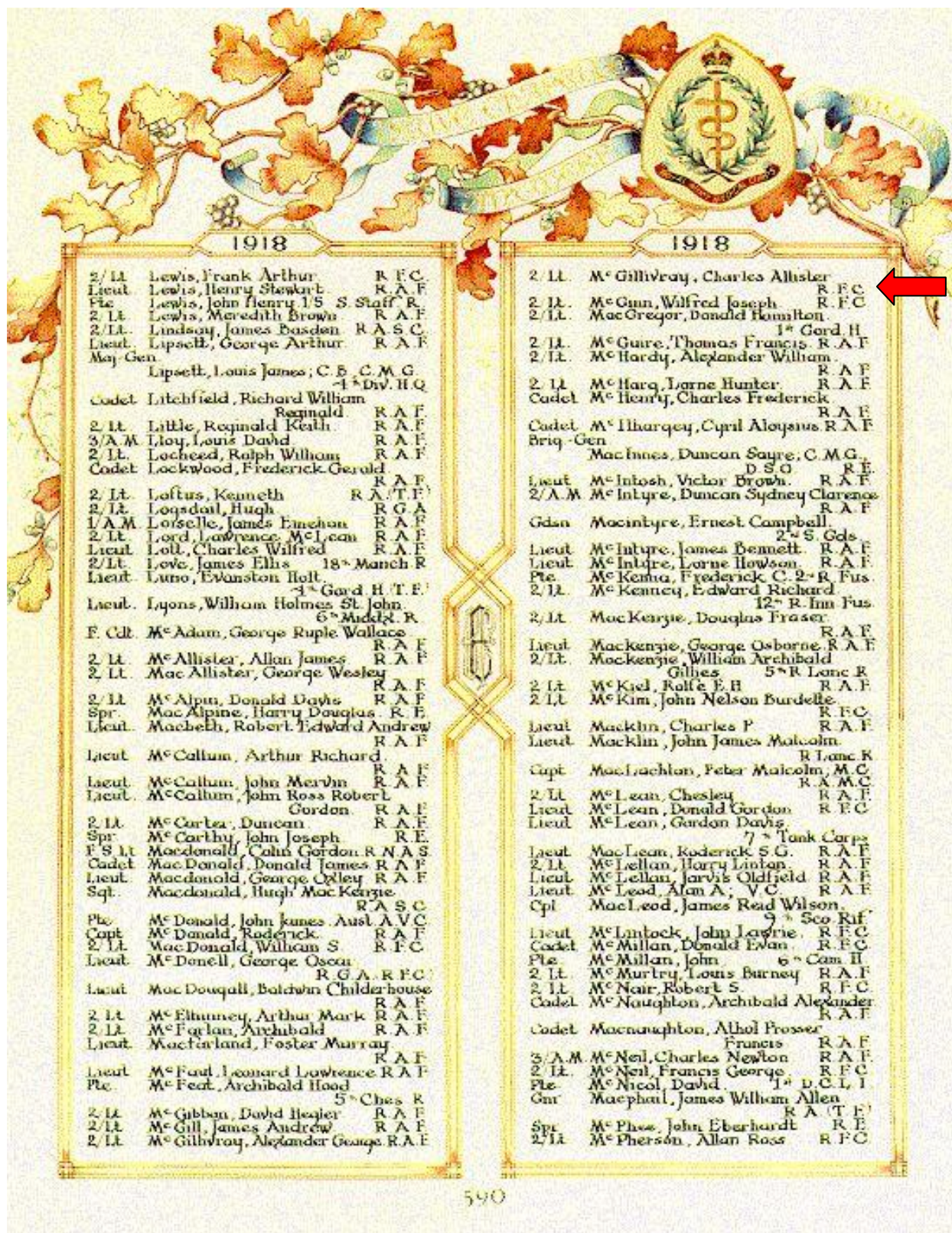


Photo of Second Lieutenant C. A. McGillivray's headstone at Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire.



*(Photo by Ian King- 2010)*



**Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire** *(Photo by Dave Healing 2013)*