



2013 Premier's ANZAC Spirit School Prize

Lieutenant Lyell Keith Swann 1895 – 1918

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Photograph 1: Lieutenant Lyell Keith Swann in March 1918, London.

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Photograph 2: The last ever photograph taken of Lyell Keith Swann alive.

¹ Swann, Lyell Keith, 2003. Cover page. The Swann Diaries... A factual transcription from the ww1 personal diaries so meticulously kept by Lieutenant Lyell Keith Swann MM 40th Battalion A.I.F and 4th Squadron, Australian Flying Corps, Regimental number 2156., issue 1, 1

Background before departing for the Western Front

Lyell Keith Swann, was born on May 18th 1895 in Keyneton, just outside of the Barossa Valley, South Australia². He had two older brothers, Gordon and Roy³. He attended Keyneton Primary School until he moved to Adelaide when he was 10⁴. His education continued at Unley Primary school⁵. After primary school, he went to Kyre College (Scotch College), Adelaide, then attended Prince Alfred College in Adelaide in 1908⁶. Bright and a perfect student, he was an excellent player at tennis and cricket⁷.

An active Christian, he worshipped and taught Sunday School at Parkside Methodist Church⁸. He worked as a bank clerk at the Savings Bank of South Australia, on Currie Street, Adelaide until he enlisted in the army at the age of 20⁹.



Photograph 3: Keyneton
Primary School, 2012.



Photograph 4: Unley
Primary School, 2012.

² *ibid*, p.10.

³ *ibid*, p. 10.

⁴ *ibid*, p. 10.

⁵ *ibid*, p. 10.

⁶ *ibid*, p. 11.

⁷ *ibid*, p. 11.

⁸ *ibid*, p. 11.

⁹ *ibid*, p. 12.

¹⁰ Government of South Australia, (2012), Keyneton Primary School [ONLINE]. Available at: <http://www.keynetonps.sa.edu.au/> [Accessed 01 July 12]

¹¹ Marijana Tadic, (2006), Unley primary School [ONLINE]. Available at: <http://www.pascale.com.au/projstone-unleyhome.htm> [Accessed 01 July 12]



Photograph 5:
Kyre College,
now Scotch
College in
Adelaide, 2011.

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Photograph 6: Prince Alfred College as seen today, 2012.

Swann had true bravery and the fighting ANZAC Spirit in him when he made the most critical decision in his life; to enlist in the war. The horrors of Gallipoli were well underway and his brother, Roy, was fighting there¹⁴. Cowardly men do not go to war, especially non-conscripted men¹⁵. Swann believed that God was calling him to do it for his country¹⁶. However, his reluctant mother, Alvena, discouraged him from enlisting while he was 18¹⁷. Finally, in 1916, the family fearing they would crush Keith's purpose in life, agreed¹⁸.

¹² Scotch College, (2007), *Kyre/Scotch College* [ONLINE]. Available at: <http://www.scotch.sa.edu.au/go/about-scotch/our-history> [Accessed 01 July 12].

¹³ Prince Alfred College, (2012), *Prince Alfred College* [ONLINE]. Available at: <http://pac.edu.au/Our-School.aspx> [Accessed 01 July 12].

¹⁴ Swann, Lyell Keith, 2003. Flight-Lieut. Lyell Keith Swann, MM. The Swann Diaries... A factual transcription from the ww1 personal diaries so meticulously kept by Lieutenant Lyell Keith Swann MM 40th Battalion A.I.F and 4th Squadron, Australian Flying Corps, Regimental number 2156., issue 1, 12

¹⁵ Government of South Australia, State Library of South Australia. 2008. Conscription : Conscription during World War One. [ONLINE] Available at: <http://www.samemory.sa.gov.au/site/page.cfm?u=1022>. [Accessed 01 July 12].

¹⁶ Swann, Lyell Keith, 2003. Flight-Lieut. Lyell Keith Swann, MM. The Swann Diaries... A factual transcription from the ww1 personal diaries so meticulously kept by Lieutenant Lyell Keith Swann MM 40th Battalion A.I.F and 4th Squadron, Australian Flying Corps, Regimental number 2156., issue 1, 12

¹⁷ Ibid, p. 12.

¹⁸ Ibid, p. 12.

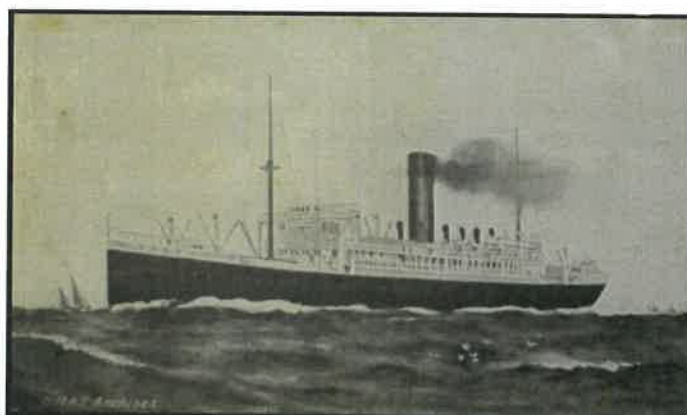
Life and service on the Western Front

Swann enlisted on March 14th 1916, and was placed in the 43rd Battalion, 3rd Reinforcements¹⁹. He embarked on August 28th 1916, from Adelaide on HMAT "*Anchises*" (A68), as an acting Sergeant in command of his own platoon²⁰. Once in Britain, the 43rd Battalion, 3rd Reinforcements was transferred (due to lack of numbers in other battalions) to the 40th Battalion at Lark Hill²¹. This took Swann to the Western Front in early December 1916²².



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Photograph 7: Swann
on the "*Anchises*."
L to R: Daw, Swann and
Berri.



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Painting 1: HMAT
"*Anchises*" (68) as
in 1915.

During 1917, Swann fought in Belgium (Map 1), at Messines and in a bitter attack at Passchendaele²⁵. At Messines, he commanded a platoon and seized an enemy trench before

¹⁹ Swann, Lyell Keith, 2003. Diary 1. The Swann Diaries... A factual transcription from the ww1 personal diaries so meticulously kept by Lieutenant Lyell Keith Swann MM 40th Battalion A.I.F and 4th Squadron, Australian Flying Corps, Regimental number 2156., issue 1, 15

²⁰ Swann, Lyell Keith, 2003. Diary 2. The Swann Diaries... A factual transcription from the ww1 personal diaries so meticulously kept by Lieutenant Lyell Keith Swann MM 40th Battalion A.I.F and 4th Squadron, Australian Flying Corps, Regimental number 2156., issue 1, 28

²¹ *ibid*, p. 41.

²² *ibid*, p. 42.

²³ *ibid*, p. 29.

²⁴ HMAT *Anchises* 2012, painting, The Harrower Collection, accessed 02 July 2012, <<http://harrowercollection.com/cavander.html>>.

attacking and successfully holding four key bridges over the Douvebeek River while under heavy shell-fire²⁶. This was a major achievement, as it allowed other battalions to cross the river²⁷. Swann was then recommended and awarded the Military Medal, the equivalent to the Military Cross today²⁸. This was given to non-commissioned officers, staff sergeants or below, for gallantry in battle²⁹. Unlike Messines, the Passchendaele attack was devised quickly, ineffectively, and made worse by the torrential rain³⁰. Swann diarizes "*I was laying in mud 4 or 5 inches deep.*"³¹ German pillboxes also made it very hard to advance³². For the rest of the year, Swann was busy leading fatigue parties and being a trench sergeant³³.



Map 1: A map of Northern France and Southern Belgium with pinpoints showing major battle areas where Swann went 'over the top.'

Whilst under adverse conditions, Swann, as many men did, complained about the cold weather and muddy trenches in his diaries³⁴. For Swann, this was a day-to-day occurrence at the front and although it was new to him, he stuck it out. This reveals he was brave, even though he complained, he continued to be humorous.

²⁵ Swann, Lyell Keith, 2003. Diary 4. The Swann Diaries... A factual transcription from the ww1 personal diaries so meticulously kept by Lieutenant Lyell Keith Swann MM 40th Battalion A.I.F and 4th Squadron, Australian Flying Corps, Regimental number 2156., issue 1, 57.

²⁶ *ibid*, p. 57.

²⁷ *ibid*, p. 57.

²⁸ *ibid*, p. 58.

²⁹ Australian Government, Department of Defence. 2012. *Defence Honours and Awards*. [ONLINE] Available at: <http://www.defence.gov.au/medals/>. [Accessed 02 July 12].

³⁰ Australian War Memorial. 2009. *The butcher and the grocer: A Western Front story..* [ONLINE] Available at: <http://www.awm.gov.au/blog/tag/passchendaele-ypres/>. [Accessed 03 July 12].

³¹ Swann, Lyell Keith, 2003. Diary 4. The Swann Diaries... A factual transcription from the ww1 personal diaries so meticulously kept by Lieutenant Lyell Keith Swann MM 40th Battalion A.I.F and 4th Squadron, Australian Flying Corps, Regimental number 2156., issue 1, 64.

³² *ibid*, p. 65.

³³ *ibid*, p. 67.

³⁴ *ibid*, p. 71.

On August 13th 1917, he applied for the Australian Flying Corps, eager for more action, and was accepted on January 22nd, 1918³⁵. He graduated as a pilot on October 19th 1918 and was placed in the 4th Australian Flying Corps Squadron and went over to their headquarters in France near Lille³⁶.



Photograph 8:
Swann standing in
front of a Sopwith
Camel just after
doing his first solo
flight in a Camel
on August 22nd.

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Finally, on November 11th 1918, Swann was to go on his first mission as a pilot escorting bombers³⁸. However, the raid was cancelled, as the war was to end officially at 11am. on that day³⁹. On November 13th, he and two colleagues went to practise a formation flip⁴⁰. However, upon returning they missed the aerodrome and landed at the 21st RAF Squadron aerodrome⁴¹. The next day, just after 11am. while taking off bound for home base, Swann was seen to spin his plane at about 300ft. before dreadfully crashing into the ground⁴². Taken unconscious to the 63rd Casualty Clearing Station, he had a broken and crushed leg, broken skull and internal bleeding⁴³. At 6pm. his left leg was amputated but nothing changed and he passed away, unconscious, at 9:40 pm⁴⁴. Just three days after the end of World War I.

³⁵ *ibid*, p. 59.

³⁶ *ibid*, p. 100.

³⁷ *ibid*, p. 98.

³⁸ *ibid*, p. 102.

³⁹ *ibid*, p. 102.

⁴⁰ *ibid*, p. 103.

⁴¹ *ibid*, p. 103.

⁴² *ibid*, p. 103.

⁴³ *ibid*, p. 103.

⁴⁴ *ibid*, p. 103.

What the ANZAC Spirit means to me

The ANZAC spirit is defined as bravery, courage, honesty, faith in others including yourself and humour in the worst of times. Being resourceful and constructive is also important, as is looking out for your mates, being modest, getting the best out of every situation, enjoying life and being proud of achievements, even not your own. Australians and New Zealanders lost men who had such an amazing heart and mindset. They were a breed of their own; their spirit to 'just do it' no matter what the cost and to keep fighting even when the odds were against them was unique. Other countries had never seen this before because it was Australia and New Zealand's first chance to show the world who they were and what they stood for. It was a chance to be proud.



Photograph 9: For me, this photo says what happened was real. Swann was not just some made up person, he was real, he had feeling and his did die severing his country.



Photograph 10: The Military Medal.

⁴⁵ ibid, p. 78.

How his service on the Western Front reflects the ANZAC Spirit

Swann was a brave man, with a strong mindset. What he endured is more than anybody can grasp. If you think you know, you are wrong. Going to war is going into a fierce battleground and everyday living in fear of death. Only an experience of war yourself, would enable you to comprehend what he went through, but even now, conditions are different due to modern warfare techniques. Swann was a brave man because not even once did he question orders about attacking the enemy, he even endorsed them. Swann received numerous promotions from a private to a lieutenant and regularly acted as a sergeant while still a private. Swann took the position on without complaint and excelled. He was brave and ready for the challenge.

During the war, Swann's attitudes reflected his spirit to win the war. Commanding a platoon and changing an attack plan at the last minute, is one example of resourcefulness and effectiveness that he showed at Messines. Awfully modest, as a British soldier writes, *"he never told us about getting the Military Medal; ... when I asked Keith how he won it, he looked very shy and said, 'Oh! They are not uncommon – it was at Messines. I had to take charge and we came through alright'⁴⁶."* Swann believed he should not have received the medal, writing, he *"really did not deserve it but there you are"⁴⁷.* The same British soldier also wrote, *"he seems to find life a very happy state, abounding with humour, and this in spite of the horrors of war, which fortunately don't leave 'the smell of fire upon him'⁴⁸."* Swann showed humour in his life and diaries. He also displayed pride, writing, *"I received my Commission and I was a very proud man I can tell you"⁴⁹.* Another Englishman who served with Swann for a few days mentioned that even though Keith was *"only with us for a few days, he made friends with everyone he met."* Friends agreed *"to know Keith was to love him."* He also joined the flying corps because he believed he could do more for the war effort in that branch of service.

Leading fatigue parties usually involved delivering water and hot meals, taking away gas shells and sometimes, dead bodies. This was never a pleasant job. The mud was thick and Swann would have been under constant artillery fire. This was an important job helping others and although it was unpleasant, Swann did it. Nevertheless, he wrote, *"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends"⁵⁰.* This showed he looked out for his mates.

⁴⁶ *ibid*, p. 12.

⁴⁷ *ibid*, p. 58.

⁴⁸ *ibid*, p. 12.

⁴⁹ *ibid*, p. 58.

⁵⁰ *ibid*, p. 12.

On October 15th 1918, Swann crashed his first Camel, completely writing it off, Swann later writes, "*I was not hurt or shaken up in the least and still have as much faith in the machine as ever*"⁵¹. He was not scared of the machine, but rather loved it. He kept faith in the machine even when he and many others also crashed. This was the power within him; this was the true ANZAC spirit. He never gave up faith, commitment, dedication, determination and spirit⁵². He would not rest until the war was over and it must have taken Swann a lot of courage and bravery to do, but he did. He was an experienced flyer, but even veteran flyers found that the Sopwith Camel was the hardest to fly. 90% of the weight was in the front seven feet making control difficult. Taking off, however, was the hardest to learn and this procedure killed the most people flying the plane. Unfortunately, it included Swann too. The fuel tank affected the front weight of the aircraft especially in take off and is a risk until the planes levels. This is the underlying reason why Swann's plane accidentally crashed.

Swann epitomised the true meaning of the ANZAC spirit. Swann was brave, constructive, energetic, proud and faithful. Australia and New Zealand lost a whole generation with the ANZAC spirit. Lyell Keith Swann was no exception, he was an ANZAC and he had the ANZAC spirit hard wired into his DNA.

RIP Lieutenant Lyell Keith Swann.

⁵¹ *ibid*, p. 100.

⁵² *Last Post First Light* [online]. (2012). Available from: <<http://www.stuff.co.nz/national/last-post-first-light/6771639/Talking-about-the-Anzac-spirit>>. [Accessed 5th July, 2012].

Appendix

Diary entry for the attack at Messines

7th June 1917.

Just a little before midnight we fell in armed for the fray. Jack Dell my platoon commander had previously been gassed & I was in charge of the platoon, 3 N.C.O's & 20 men. My job was to clear a trench and then look after the 4 bridges over the Dourve. It was an important job for the bridges had to be kept in order to allow the rear bns to follow on. Our luck was right out at first. As soon as we left camp we ran into gas straight away & walking in helmets is no easy task especially when loaded up with such a weight. The gas & shrapnel shells were falling fast & really I thought Fritz had guessed we were going to attack. We marched in single file & it was hard work. Just as we were entering Ploegsteert Wood two incendiary & a couple of H.E's burst right in the column & several of the poor lads copped it. Three men lost a leg each & several were killed & most of the wounded got gassed besides. The ground was lit up for yards & yards around & the night was awful.

However after things got down to normal again we pushed on but with considerably fewer numbers. The lads stuck to it nobly & well & after more uphill walking (with our helmets on) we reached our hopping off trench. We simply dropped down in the trench - dead beat. I found that I had three men & no N.C.O's to go over with as all the others had become casualties. However we joined up with another platoon and made the necessary alterations to our plans. After a rest we felt much better & more fitted for the struggle. At exactly 3.10 a.m. on the 7th June the machine guns & all the others 18 pounders, 4.5's, 5.9's & 9.5's opened up as one gun in one huge rumbling roar. At the same time the earth simply shook & the trenches swayed to & fro and the sky was lit up by a large flash as the 19 mines under Messines exploded. If that didn't get

the wind up Fritz well he's a better man than I thought him. We immediately wondered when he was going to explode his as we all thought our trenches were mined also but no nothing happened. I got the word to hop over & with my few men over we went.

It was just getting light but the continuous shelling caused immense clouds of dust to rise & it was difficult to see. There was practically no wire & his trenches were in an awful condition. We met very little resistance as he abandoned his machine guns although in a few isolated cases he caused a little trouble. My particular bit of the Beck caused me no trouble so we went along to look after the bridges which was our second duty. Again this was an easy job as the men had all got across although we were being heavily shelled. Just as we were going over a shell landed behind us & killed Cecil Dunn & Sgt. Bowring & 2 others - all fine fellows. Later they were buried together by N.Z. Pioneers in a nice neat grave. Map ref. Approx. Ploegsteert 1/10,000, 28. S.W.4. Edition 4.8. B. A. 5-3.50.

The barrage did not lift for eleven hrs & in that time I moved forward found the Coy. & we commenced digging in. The prisoners were coming back in dozens by themselves & all seemed glad to be out of action. I've never seen such a degraded dejected disgusting lot of men in all my life & some of them were mere boys. We were being heavily shelled all the time but luckily had few casualties. At about 5 o'clock we went right up to the green line & helped the 38th consolidate - all night we worked like mad digging & the line was completed in a wonderfully short period. We had hot tea for breakfast & it was a great boon.

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Diary entries detailing the aftermath of the attack at Messines

26th June. 1917.

I was one of the four chosen from the Bn. to represent the men who went over at Messines to be inspected by the Duke of Connaught. We marched into Bailleul & there we were reviewed. We were given leave until 9 o'clock & in that time I had a good meal & saw a fine pierrot show. On the way home I saw four of our balloons set fire to by Fritz. A fine piece of work indeed.

29th June 1917

Awarded military medal for conspicuous gallantry etc at Messines. Really did not deserve it but there you are. Was very pleased for mother's & father's sakes. They'll think me a blooming hero no doubt. Sent them a cable.

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⁵³ Swann, Lyell Keith, 2003. Diary 3. The Swann Diaries... A factual transcription from the ww1 personal diaries so meticulously kept by Lieutenant Lyell Keith Swann MM 40th Battalion A.I.F and 4th Squadron, Australian Flying Corps, Regimental number 2156., issue 1, 57

⁵⁴ *ibid*, p. 58.

1st July 1917.

Received my commission & I was a very proud man I can tell you. Bn. sports in the afternoon. Cabled home.

2nd July

Bn. drill in the morning & Bde. Sports in the afternoon. As usual the 40th won the cup. I was given charge of No. 12 platoon.

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Diary entry from the night of the attack at Passchendaele

11th October 1917.

Moved up to our forward area & camped in bivouac, resting all day. At eight o'clock p.m. we were given a nice hot feed, as most probably this would be our last hot meal for some days. We are camped at Hussar Farm near the base of the Zonnebeke Rd. At 8.45 we fell in ready to move off & by 9 p.m. we were on our way in single file towards the line. The whole brigade was moving in single file along the road & although traffic had been suspended we made very slow progress. Until we branched off to "K" track we met with no shelling at all, then however Fritz put over a number of gas shells which caused us to put on our helmets but we moved on & the interruption caused us very little inconvenience. The track was in a fair state but when you've got 3000 odd men following one behind the other you can imagine the going wasn't altogether fast.

After going along a sunken road for a while we found we were at our jumping off position. There was no trench there so we formed up in our correct formation as well as possible & laid down. We were all bunched up & things didn't look too good at all. We had two hrs to wait as zero time was 5.25 a.m. (12.10.17). I really think they were the worst two hrs I've ever been through. Personally I was lying in mud 4 Or 5 inches deep. The rain was pouring steadily down on us & to cap the lot the Boche started to shell us heavily. Really I

didn't fancy the idea of going over, as I knew the mud would be pretty bad.

However when the barrage opened up we went forward & there wasn't any order or formation at all. It was just like a crowd coming away from a football match. We were met with machine gun fire from a pillbox directly in the wood in front. However that was soon taken & altogether about 20 prisoners were captured. The ground was in an awful condition & made going very hard. The barrage was very poor & we found out more so afterwards. Well we advanced about 700 yards & then the 37th commenced to dig in. We had to take the second objective but our barrage didn't commence for over 40 minutes. Small groups of men pushed forward & some even went right into Passchendaele. However the N.Z's were unable to come up on our left as a very strong pillbox surrounded by wire was holding them up. This left our flank exposed & we were ordered to withdraw in small parties & consolidate where the 39th were, that is in our original assembly trench.

The mire in the gullies were easily up to ones thighs & it was a bad look out if you got stuck. Even in shell-holes the mud was sometimes over the knees & the wounded had an awful time. The majority were brought in but some poor chaps simply died of exhaustion, they crawled into shell holes & couldn't get out. The nights were awful but its wonderful how callous a fellow gets. When you see a fellow with his leg blown off pleading for help & you've simply got to push on you'd think it would make you cry, but no! we take it as a matter of course, it can't be otherwise. We had 2 officers killed & 23 other ranks & a large number wounded. His machine gun fire was pretty rotten for us & the barrage hardly touched any of his pillboxes.

A Boche will shout at you like blazes until you get about 50 yds away & then will come out of his concrete building & ask for mercy. Wonderful isn't it? That night it rained nearly all the time & he shelled us badly. Although very cold & wet I managed to snare a few moments of sleep.

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⁵⁵ *ibid*, p. 58.

⁵⁶ *ibid*, p. 64.

Witness Statements of Swann's crash on November 14th, 1918.

COPY OF (STATEMENT D.16.)

Lieut. L.K. SWANN. 4th Sqn. A.F.C.
Died of Wounds 14.11.18.

This Officer was killed as a result of an Air accident. He was taking off with a flight Patrol at 11 a.m. on 14.11.18. when he was seen to spin at about 300 feet.

He crashed to the ground and was taken to 63rd C.C.S. where he dies at 10 P.M. the same night, Fractured Bone and internal injuries.

*Aerodrome, Grand Ennehierres: near LILLE.
Buried at "ASCQ" Cemetery by Hospital Chaplain.
Map reference TOURNAI.5.*

1/100,000. B.5.

(Sgd) W.J. Cooper. Capt.
For O.C. 4th A.F.C.

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COPY OF STATEMENT D.16.)

Lieut. L.K. SWANN. 4th Sqn. A.F.C.
Died of Wounds 14.11.18.

Lieut. SWANN was admitted to this Station about mid-day on November 14th suffering from severe injuries sustained by 'crashing' on landing his aeroplane. His left knee and foot were badly smashed the base of his skull also being fractured.

He was unconscious and unfit for operation until 6 p.m. when the left leg was amputated above the knee. There was no improvement however, in his condition and he passed away without regaining consciousness at 9.40 P.M. that evening.

He was buried in the French Military Cemetery at ASCQ on the main LILLE-TOURNAI ROAD.

63rd C.C.S.

(Sgd) A.B. Lyon. Lt-Col. R.A.M.C.
63rd Casualty Clearing Station.

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⁵⁷ *ibid*, p. 104.

⁵⁸ *ibid*, p. 104.

Photograph 11: Cover page of *The Swann Dairies*.



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Photograph 12: Lyell Keith Swann in Sawdust's Club room, England, September 1918.



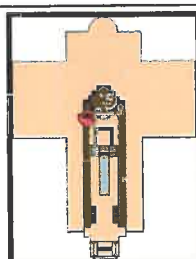
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Photograph 13: Swann's



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Photograph 14: The poppy is the location of Swann's name at the Australian War memorial.



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Photograph 15: The Australian Commonwealth Military Forces badge.



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⁵⁹ Swann, Lyell Keith, 2003. Diary 1. *The Swann Dairies...* A factual transcription from the ww1 personal diaries so meticulously kept by Lieutenant Lyell Keith Swann MM 40th Battalion A.I.F and 4th Squadron, Australian Flying Corps, Regimental number 2156., issue 1, 1

⁶⁰ *ibid*, p. 98.

⁶¹ *ibid*, p. 103.

⁶² Australian War Memorial, (2012), Location on the Roll of Honour [ONLINE]. Available at: http://www.awm.gov.au/research/people/roll_of_honour/person.asp?p=510901 [Accessed 05 July 12].

⁶³ The AIF Project, (2012), Australian Commonwealth Military Forces [ONLINE]. Available at: <http://www.aif.adfa.edu.au/showPerson?pid=293276> [Accessed 01 July 12].

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES.
CERTIFIED TRUE COPY.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

ATTESTATION PAPER OF PERSONS ENLISTED FOR SERVICE ABROAD

No. 2136 Name SWANN LYELL KEITH (M.M.)
Unit 2nd DEPOT BATTALION I.A.F. 3/11/1918
Joined on MAR 14 1918

Questions to be put to the Person Enlisting before Attestation.

- What is your Name? Lyell Keith Swann
- In or near what Parish or Town were you born? 111 5th St
In the Parish of Respecton near the Town of Respecton in the County of SOUTH AUSTRALIA
- Are you a natural born British Subject or a Naturalized British Subject? (N.B.—If the latter, papers to be shown.) Natural born
- What is your age? 20 1/2 years
- What is your trade or calling? Bank clerk
- Are you, or have you been, an Apprentice? If so, where, to whom, and for what period? No
- Are you married? No
- Who is your next of kin? (Address to be stated) Father Mr & L. H. Swann
(MOTHER) MR ALVINA SWANN
TAMBLETON
SOUTH AUSTRALIA
- Have you ever been convicted by the Civil Power? No
- Have you ever been discharged from any part of His Majesty's Forces, with Ignominy, or as Incurable and Worthless, or on account of Conviction of Felony, or of a Sentence of Penal Servitude, or have you been dismissed with disgrace from the Navy? No
- Do you now belong to, or have you ever served in, His Majesty's Army, the Marines, the Militia, the Militia Reserve, the Territorial Force, Royal Navy or Colonial Forces? If so, state which, and if not now serving, state cause of discharge 4 years Senior Cadets 74th
Transferred to 2nd Engineer
2 yrs 9 mths 2nd Engineer
still serving
- Have you stated the whole, if any, of your previous service? No
- Have you ever been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's Service? If so, on what grounds? No
- (For married men, widowers with children, and soldiers who are the sole support of a family) Do you understand that no Separation Allowance will be issued to you in respect of your service beyond an amount which together with pay would reach 8/- per day? No
- Are you prepared to undergo inoculation against smallpox and enteric fever? Yes

Lyell Keith Swann do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and I am willing and hereby voluntarily agree to serve in the Military Forces of the Commonwealth of Australia within or beyond the limits of the Commonwealth.

And I further agree to allot not less than two-fifths of the pay payable to me from time to time during my service for the support of my wife & 4 children

Date MAR 14 1918 L. K. Swann
Signature of Person Enlisted.

* This clause should be struck out in the case of unmarried men or widowers without children under 21 years of age.
1 Two-fifths must be allotted to the wife, and if there are children three-fifths must be allotted.

Photograph 16:
Swann's enlistment
form.

⁶⁴ National Archives of Australia, (2012), Lyell Keith Swann, enlistment form [ONLINE]. Available at: <http://mappingouranzacs.naa.gov.au/file-view.html?b=8096459&s=B2455&c=SWANN%20LYELL%20KEITH> [Accessed 05 July 12]

Photograph
17: Certificate
of Medical
Examination.

3

Description of Lyell Keith Swann on Enlistment

Age <u>20</u> years <u>9</u> months	DISTINCTIVE MARKS. <u>No</u> <u>RL</u> <u>LB</u> <u>Face 4L</u>
Height <u>5</u> feet <u>7 1/4</u> inches	
Weight <u>132</u> lbs.	
Chest Measurement <u>31-35</u> inches	
Complexion <u>Fair</u>	
Eyes <u>Blue</u>	
Hair <u>Brown</u>	
Religious Denomination <u>Methodist</u>	

CERTIFICATE OF MEDICAL EXAMINATION.

I HAVE examined the above-named person, and find that he does not present any of the following conditions, viz:—

Scrofula; phthisis; syphilis; impaired constitution; defective intelligence; defects of vision, voice, or hearing; hernia; hæmorrhoids; varicose veins, beyond a limited extent; marked varicocele with unusually pendent testicle; inveterate cutaneous disease; chronic ulcers; traces of corporal punishment, or evidence of having been marked with the letters D. or B.C.; contracted or deformed chest; abnormal curvature of spine; or any other disease or physical defect calculated to unfit him for the duties of a soldier.

He can see the required distance with either eye; his heart and lungs are healthy; he has the free use of his joints and limbs; and he declares he is not subject to fits of any description.

I consider him fit for active service.

Date 14 FEB 1916

Place ADELAIDE.

C. Corbin
E. O. Johnson

Signature of Examining Medical Officer.

CERTIFICATE OF COMMANDING OFFICER.

I CERTIFY that this Attestation of the above named person is correct, and that the required forms have been complied with. I accordingly approve, and appoint him to 1st 2nd DEPOT BATTALION, A.I.F.

Date MAR 16 1916

Place Adelaide

W. H. Hancock Lt. Col.

Commanding 2nd DEPOT BATTALION, A.I.F.

W. H. Hancock Lt. Col.

Army Form No. 10-11
Form H.

(SERVICE AND CASUALTY FORM Part II).

Regiment or Corps 3rd/22nd Aust. Flying Corps Regimental Number 2156

*Substantive Rank Lieut Service SWANS Christian Name Lyell Keith.

*Acting Rank _____

C To be entered in pencil at final discharge only.

I Date		II Place of birth	III Place of enlistment	IV Date of enlistment	V Remarks and date of entry
23/11/16	23/11/16	40th. Bn	Embarked Disembled. Transport U.S.S. 40th. Bn	Adelaide Plymouth R.M. Ass Anchorage Larkhill	28/8/16 11/10/16 5 12/11/16 DO12/20
23/11/16	"	"	Reverts to ranks	"	21/11/16 DO12/910
23/11/16	"	"	Prom. Opl.	"	21/11/16 DO11/911
23/11/16	"	"	Prom. 4/Sgt	"	21/11/16 DO11/912
23/11/16	23/11/16	40th. Bn	Prom. O/Sas France	Stampten	23/11/16 DO12/1968E
6/12/16	"	"	Appts. 1/Sgt vice	Field	30/11/16 DO1/4
12/3/17	"	"	1/Sgt Manteach Struck off strength	"	16/1/17 DO14/1073
23/3/17	23/3/17	3rd. Div. Schl.	Prom. Sgt vice Sgt. Dell Prom. C.S.M.	"	
4/4/17	"	"	Reported from Unit	Field	11/3/17
22/6/17	22/6/17	40 40th. Bn	Returns to Unit From T/C. C.M.S. vice	"	25/3/17
9/7/17	9/7/17	S. I. F. O. 198	Laurie was Wounded	"	21/6/17 DO29/3224
9/7/17	"	"	Awarded "M.M."	"	21/6/17 DO29/3224
16/11/17	16/11/17	S. I. F. O. 289	Prom. 2/Lieut	"	26/6/17 DO29/3227
22/12/17	22/12/17	40 40th. Bn	To be Lieut	"	3/11/17 DO7/732
12/1/18	"	"	To 5th Army Mesk. Schl.	"	16/12/17
12/1/18	"	"	Regd. from School	"	6/1/18
12/1/18	"	"	To England on leave	"	16/1/18

Photograph 18:
Service and
Casualty form.

22/2/18 B.A.C., A.I.F.		Selected for training as Pilot	Field 11/1/18
170/434/44		in A.F.C.	
9/2/18 CE. 40th. Sn		Detached for training at A.F.C.	Field 6/2/18 DOLL/1059
19/2/18 "		Rejoined from leave	" 4/2/18
7/2/18 AcH.L.O.		To England en duty	Boulogne 7/2/18 DOLL/1058
10/2/18 A.F.C. Depot		M/In from AcH.L.O. London	Wendover 6/2/18
		ex France	

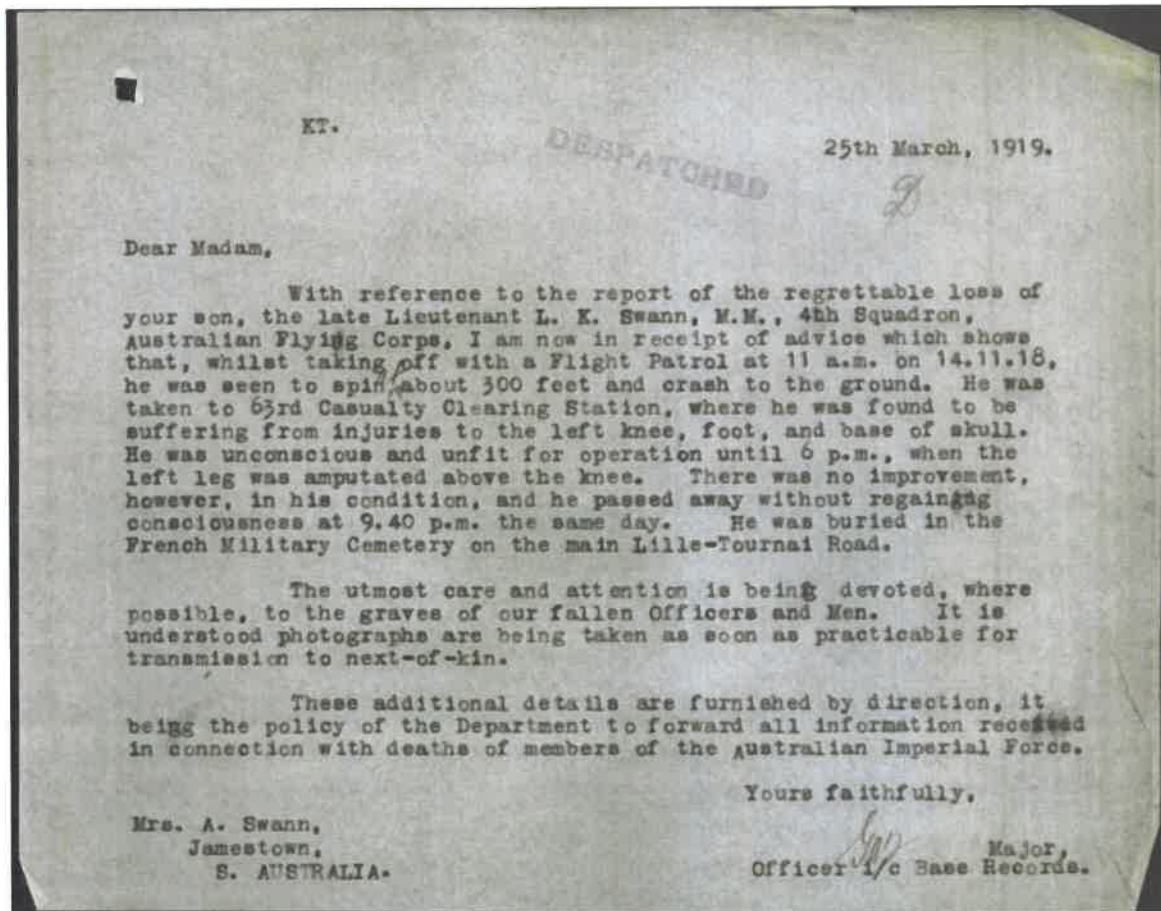
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)
Date	From whom received	Achievements Part B. of Service Record of promotion, advancement, education, decorations, honours, awards, etc. All entries to end of certificate given by him to be included, the method of success which was A.C.I. List of 1917 Certificate and Medal to be inserted and passed to be presented upon	Place of receipt	Duty at present, previous, education, occupation, etc.
3/3/18	2213. A.F.C. Eng. Dep.	M/In from No. 1. School Mil. Aer. Heading	Wendover	26/2/18 DOLL/1151
A.I.F. List 305		Seconded for training with A.F.C.		1/3/18 D022/R28.3.18
A.I.F. List 305		Joined No. 1. F.B. School at City Aero. Heading for training as Flying Officer Pilot.		1/3/18 D022/191
5/5/18. A.F.C. Depot		M/In from No. 1. S. of A	Wendover	4/5/18
2/6/18 5th. Eng. Bn.		K.A.Y. Heading. T.O.S. from AFC Dep.	Stampten	30/8/18 DOLL 4658
2/6/18 A.F.C. Depot		Wendover M/O to let Wing Hdqms Etbury		20/5/18
A.I.F. List 368		Reported to 5th Eng. Sqdn Having graduated in appt. Flying Officer (Pilot) & trans from 40th. En		30/7/18
9/11/18 No. 1. ASMEFVR		Pro. O. ceas ex Burma To attached lat. A.S.D. Pool		3/11/18
ASIS.		Pilots Range from Home Balat.		4/11/18
RND of Genl. Mult. Wounds 14.11.18		Accidental P.O		
RD at 65 Cam Cig. Stn. Prev. reported inj. acc.		List 93. C.		Ref. E.T. 14493
(not called) correct report I.B. 612 19.11.18		C.L.E.L. 2977		11099/16/2

Nothing to be written in this margin.

OFFICER I/C RECORDS. ADMIN. BRANCH. LONDON.

⁶⁶ National Archives of Australia, (2012), Lyell Keith Swann, Service and Casualty form [ONLINE]. Available at: <http://mappingouranzacs.naa.gov.au/file-view.html?b=8096459&s=B2455&c=SWANN%20LYELL%20KEITH> [Accessed 05 July 12].

⁶⁷ *ibid*



Photograph 19: A letter to Mrs Swann detailing the events of Lyell Swann's death.

⁶⁸ National Archives of Australia, (2012), Lyell Keith Swann, death certificate [ONLINE]. Available at: <http://mappingouranzacs.naa.gov.au/file-view.html?b=8096459&s=B2455&c=SWANN%20LYELL%20KEITH> [Accessed 05 July 12].