

FLIGHT LIEUTENANT  
**DAVID FREEMAN EVANS**  
79 SQN, 452 SQN & 457 SQN R.A.A.F.  
Boonah flying ace and a Spitfire named "CAITHNESS"

In August 1940 the Caithness County Council decided to make a direct contribution to the Battle of Britain by starting a fighter plane Fund, to raise the money to buy a fighter plane which would be named the Caithness or John O'Groats fighter plane. Towards the end of September the people of Caithness continued to raise funds to pay for a "Caithness" fighter plane. The John O'Groat Journal reported this week that the fund was now over half way towards its target, and was even expected to reach over £4000 next week.

With the Battle of Britain still raging over the skies of Britain, "Our gratitude for the great work of the R.A.F could not be more practically expressed.. By the end of October the Caithness County Fighter Fund, which had been set up some weeks before to apitfire fithes had reached and exceeded its target. The fund, which had set a target of £5306 7s 1d.



**Donald Gunn McKay  
(3858) KIA 15/09/1915**



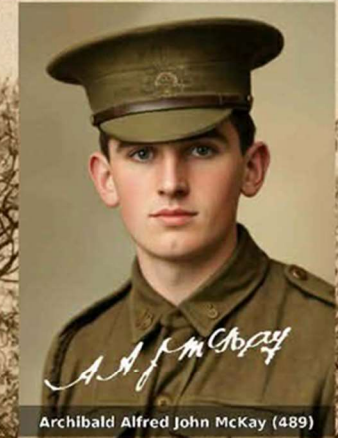
**Alexander George McKay (746)**



**Thomas "Hardie" McKay (4104)**



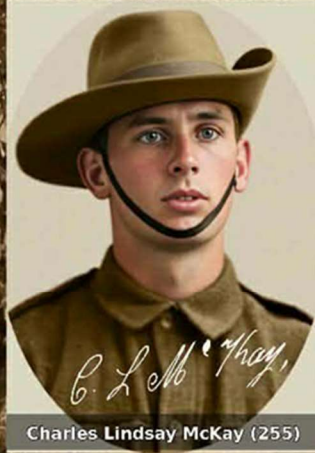
**Thomas Aubrey McKay (765)**



**Archibald Alfred John McKay (489)**



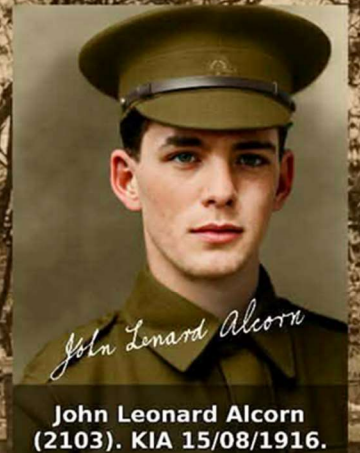
**Douglas John Alcorn MM (2552 & Q202715)**



**Charles Lindsay McKay (255)**



**David Livingstone Haddon Alcorn (57821)**



**John Leonard Alcorn  
(2103). KIA 15/08/1916.**

**Ebenezer Cyril Alcorn (2720)  
Ernest Percy Alcorn (57820)  
Flight Sergeant Malcolm John McKay (425042) KIA 24/03/1944**

## Monday Memories with Marilyn – Anzac Day 2026

ANZAC day may have come and gone for another year in Boonah but we were privileged to meet many members of the Mackay/McKay and Alcorn families who attended services in honour of the many members of their family.

In April 2023, I wrote in Memories of the Fassifern District the story of this family and their service. Angus Mackay in Scotland had read the post and I messaged him to ask if he was any relation to the families who lived in the Fassifern, and sure enough he was.

There were 2 brothers George and James Mackay. James stayed in Scotland and George came to Australia and he changed his name to George McKay.

The Alcorn relationship was 2 of George McKay's daughters married Alcorn boys.

Angus Mackay lives in the far northern region of Scotland at Keiss in the Caithness County. You pass through this area on your way to John o'Groats and then over to The Orkney Isles.

Angus had been a Firefighter, Butcher, and served in the Army Reserve. He belonged to the "Queens owned" Royal Regiment of Scotland"

I can hear you say "why are we hearing about this gentleman who lives in Scotland?"

There is a great connection in history some of you may know.

Caithness, where Angus lives, is where the people raised money to build a Spitfire and it was named after the county. £7,000 was raised to build it. There is a Website in Caithness with all the details, which includes the pilots of the Spitfire David Evans and Raymond Sly. Another pilot was killed over Malta in the Spitfire called Caithness.

When David Evans returned to Australia, he flew himself back to Dalby, kissed the ground and said he'll never fly a plane again.

Angus Mackay and a cousin of his, whose family also stayed in Scotland, joined their Australian cousins for the ANZAC services in Boonah, and visited Carney's Creek the next day, the area from where all those McKay boys left to go to war.

They loved morning tea on the verandah of 'The Ranch' where their Great Grandfather (A.J.T. McKay, once Shire Chairman and a very public spirited man) and Grandparents lived. Several neighbours who now live on the original McKay properties joined in lunch beside the creek. Many thanks to the Chalk families who now own some of the McKay properties.

The 2 photographs above were prepared by Angus Mackay and printed in Scotland. Two were presented to the Boonah RSL and I was honoured to be given 2.

A long way to come for ANZAC day in Boonah. Angus Mackay was pleased to meet cousin Bruce Alcorn

