

**Shorncliffe Military Cemetery,
Folkestone, Kent
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



FLIGHT LIEUTENANT

G. C. SCARR

ROYAL AIR FORCE

18TH NOVEMBER, 1918 Age 26

Geoffrey Campbell SCARR

Geoffrey Campbell Scarr was born on 6th September, 1892 to parents Henry Holdsworth Scarr & Harriet Scarr (nee Peak). His birth was registered in the district of Manly, New South Wales, Australia.

Geoffrey Campbell Scarr attended Sydney Grammar School, NSW from 1906 to 1909 & qualified for matriculation in 1909. He then attended Sydney University, NSW to study agriculture.

Geoffrey Campbell Scarr was employed by The Colonial Sugar Refining Co. Ltd, O'Connell St, Sydney, NSW, Australia from September, 1908 to April, 1918 as a Research Chemist & Micro Biologist & Plant Pathologist.

Henry Holdsworth Scarr, father of Geoffrey Campbell Scarr, died on 10th April, 1914 at Killara, NSW.

From the Sydney University Book of Remembrance:

Volunteering and sailing in March, 1917, joined Army at Bombay in April and was commissioned to 12th Pioneers at Lahore 5th May. Sailing in July, transferred to R.F.C., trained in Egypt and served in Palestine with 23rd Reserve and 113th Squadrons. Being sent to England in March, 1918, became an Instructor at School of Aerial Gunnery, New Romney, Kent, and from 19th October till death at No. 1 Observer School. Promoted flying-officer, 19th September, 1917; lieutenant R.A.F., 1st April, 1918.

Geoffrey Campbell Scarr left Australia in March 1917 and enlisted with the 12th Pioneers of the British Indian Army in Lahore, India. In June, 1917 he transferred to the Royal Flying Corps, trained in Egypt and served with the 23rd Squadron in Palestine. In February, 1918 he was sent to England as an instructor of aerial gunnery at New Romney in Kent. *(information in this paragraph kindly provided by Dr Philip Creagh, BVSc. –Old Sydney Grammar Boy who has researched all from Sydney Grammar who were killed in WW1)*

Geoffrey Campbell Scarr's British Royal Air Force Officers' Service Record describes his Special Qualifications as *"Detailed knowledge & laboratory experience of analytical & industrial Chemistry, inorganic & organic, metallurgy, & oil examinations. Detailed knowledge & laboratory experience of Biology, Microbiology, Bacteriology & Plant Pathology. General knowledge & practice in mechanical & electrical engineering & wireless photography. Colloquial knowledge Hindustani.*

Since joining R.F.C. -Maurice Farman; Avro BE2E 2C 2D RE7 RE 8

Geoffrey Campbell Scarr was attached to No. 1 Observer School of Aerial Gunnery then posted with No. 3 ASA Gunnery on 13th March, 1918. On 19th October, 1918 he was transferred to "H" Branch S of A.G.M. Branch S. E. Area.

On 18th November, 1918 Bristol Fighter E2484 piloted by Lieutenant Geoffrey Campbell Scarr & accompanied by Second Lieutenant Raymond Francis Allen, aged 20, as Observer, were part of a group of five planes flying formation to the East Kent Coast & back.

Flight Lieutenant Geoffrey Campbell Scarr died at 6.45 pm on 18th November, 1918 at Canadian General Hospital, Shorncliffe, Kent, England as a result of Shock from injuries received in an air crash at Folkestone Golf Links. Lieutenant Allen had been killed instantly.

A Court of Inquiry was held into the accident – *"the cause of the accident was in our opinion due to the machine being stalled while endeavouring to make a forced landing from a low altitude."*

A death for Geoffrey C. Scarr, aged 25, was registered in the December quarter, 1918 in the district of Elham, Kent, England.

FLYING FATALITY. TWO OFFICERS KILLED ON FOLKESTONE GOLF LINKS.

A fatal aviation accident occurred at Folkestone on Monday afternoon. An aeroplane piloted by Flight-Lieutenant Geoffrey Campbell Scarr who was accompanied by Lieutenant R. Francis Allen fell on the Golf Links. The latter was killed instantly, and Lieutenant Scarr died shortly afterwards. Their machine was one of a formation of five returning from the East Kent Coast. An inquest was held by Mr Rutley Mowll (East Kent Coroner) at the Canadian General Hospital, Moore Barracks, Shorncliffe, on Tuesday afternoon.

Lieutenant Foster R. Marden, R.A.F., identified the body of Second Lieutenant Francis Allen, formerly of the 6th Royal Warwickshire Regiment, attached to the Royal Air Force. Deceased was 20 years of age.

Captain James Alexander W. Rennie identified the body of Flight-Lieutenant Geoffrey Campbell Scarr, who was 25 years of age. He had belonged to the Australian Army and had subsequently become a flying officer in the Royal Air Force. Captain Rennie added that he was flying himself on Monday being Flight Commander at the time. The deceased officers were in a Bristol Fighter bi-plane one of a formation of five, Lieutenant Scarr being pilot, and Lieutenant Allen acting as observer. They had flown to Manston, between Ramsgate and Margate, and they left Manston at 2 o'clock after lunch. The weather was good, and they were flying at a height of about 1,000 feet. He saw the whole of the machines in the formation until they came to the hills behind Folkestone when he dismissed the formation by the usual signal. That meant that each machine in the formation could proceed to the aerodrome independently. He arrived home at 2.30, and he first heard of the accident about 4 o'clock. He came to Folkestone then and saw the crashed machine on the Folkestone Golf Links. He found the control in order and the wires were not broken, but otherwise the machine was smashed to pieces. The officers had then been removed. Lieutenant Scarr had had considerable experience, his log book showing that he had made 250 hours flying, and in this particular machine he had made 80 hours. So far as he was aware the machine had been behaving satisfactorily until he lost sight of it.

Mr Robert Marsh, 29, Bradstone-avenue, Folkestone, stated that he was employed as a gardener on the Golf Links. About half past two on Monday afternoon he was rolling grass, when he saw a flying machine overhead. It was "turning and twisting about," but such occurrences were so frequent that he did not take much notice. But the sound of the machine came nearer to him, and on looking up he saw the aeroplane dive. It rose again, but almost instantly it came down straight about ten yards away from him. As it crashed nose first it pitched on one side. The engine was still going when it came down. He rendered what assistance he could to the two men in the machine; one seemed to be dead.

Mr Frederick Hearnden, 35, Athelstan-road, Folkestone, stated that he was also employed on the Golf Links. He did not see the machine in the air, but he heard a crash about 2.30 p.m., and then saw a machine on the ground some 300 yards away. The last witness and he got the rear man out and lifted the first man out, the latter was just alive. Information was at once sent to the Club House.

Air-Mechanic Rowland Smith and Air-mechanic G. Alexander McKenzie, fitter and rigger respectively, stated that they overhauled the engine and the rigging on Monday morning at 8.30. The engine, control, and all rigging were in perfect order, and when the flight started the machine went off well.

Captain Rennie, recalled, stated that a board of inquiry was held, he being president. His own opinion was that something went wrong with the engine, and Lieutenant Scarr, who was pilot, Lieutenant Allen being a pupil, was endeavouring to make a forced landing. It might be that Lieutenant Scarr, seeing that he was landing on the Golf Links, which was not a good place, made an effort to reach a ploughed field in the locality, but had lost flying speed and crashed to the ground.

Lieutenant-Colonel H. E. Kembell, C.A.M.C., in charge of the Surgical Division, Canadian General Hospital, Shorncliffe, stated that Lieutenant Scarr died at 6.45 on Monday evening. The cause of death was shock from injuries. Lieutenant Allen had been brought to the mortuary dead. Upon examination of the body he found that the skull had been fractured.

The jury, of which Mr Couchman was foreman, returned a verdict of "Accidental death."

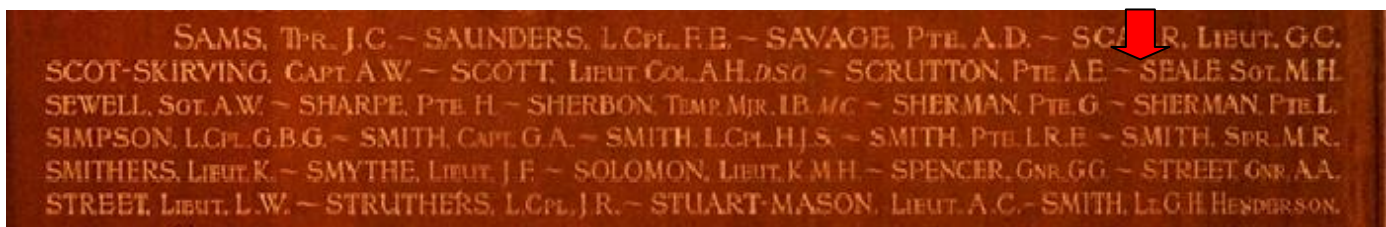
Flight Lieutenant Geoffrey Campbell Scarr was buried in Shorncliffe Military Cemetery, Folkestone, Kent, England – Plot number M. 721 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Flight Lieutenant Geoffrey Campbell Scarr, of No. 1 Observer School of Aerial Gunnery, Royal Air Force. He was the son of Mrs H. Scarr, of Springdale Rd., Killara, Sydney, NSW, Australia.

Lieut. G. C. Scarr is remembered on the Sydney Grammar School Honour Board (centre panel), located at Sydney Grammar School, College Street, Darlinghurst, Sydney, NSW.



Sydney Grammar School Honour Board (Image courtesy of Sydney Grammar School)



Geoffrey Campbell Scarr is remembered in the Book of Remembrance at The University of Sydney, NSW. Geoffrey Campbell Scarr is also remembered on the Sydney University War Memorial Carillon Roll of Honour which commemorates the undergraduates, graduates and staff who died in service or were killed in action during World War One. The entrance to the carillon contains various honour rolls including the University Roll of Honour which was unveiled on the 11th November 1931.



Sydney University War Memorial Carillon Roll of Honour (Photos from Monument Australia – Peter Williams)



Lieutenant Geoffrey Campbell Scarr 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)

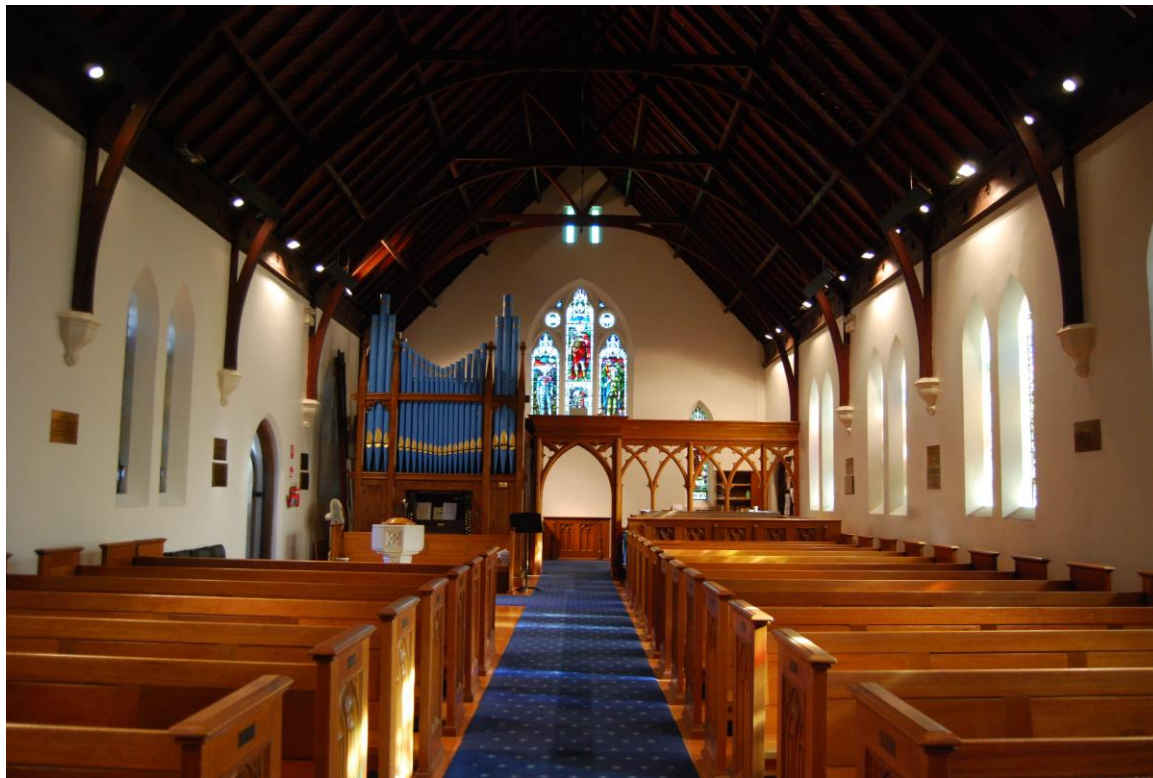
A "G. S. Scarr" is remembered on the Killara Soldiers Memorial located on the building of the Marian Street Theatre, Marian Street, Killara, NSW. (Note – No "G.S. Scarr" can be located on the CWGC or the Australian War Memorial site – so it may be possible that the middle initial was listed incorrectly & it could be "G. C. Scarr" ??)



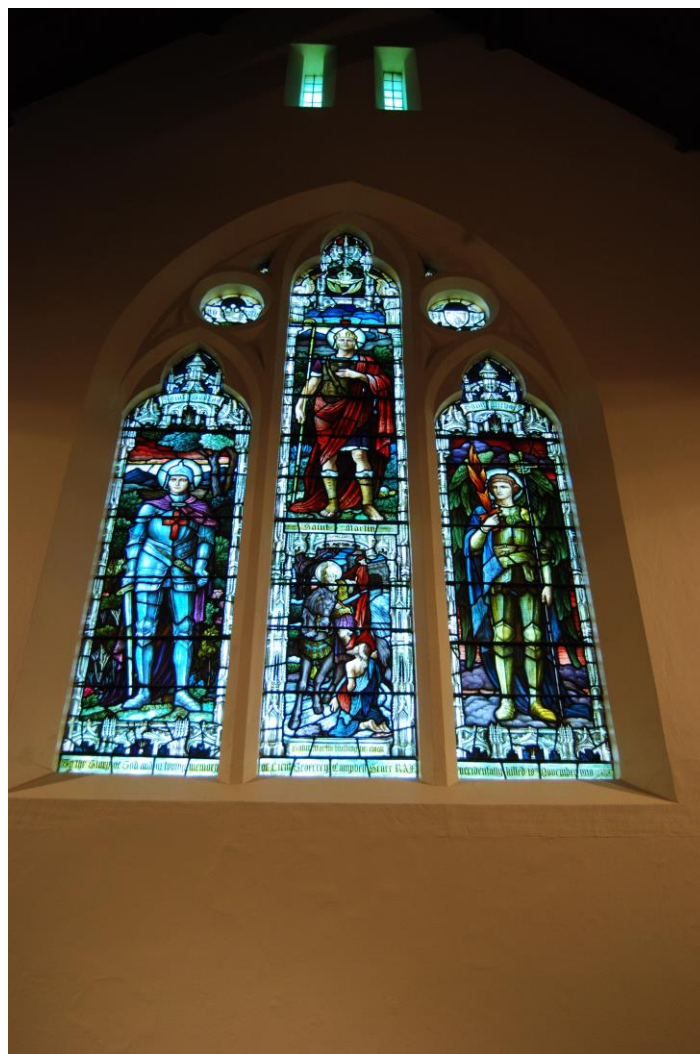
Killara Soldiers Memorial (Photo from Register of War Memorials in NSW)



Lieutenant Geoffrey Campbell Scarr is remembered on the Stained Glass Window located on the west wall of St. Martin's Anglican Church, Arnold Street, Killara, NSW.

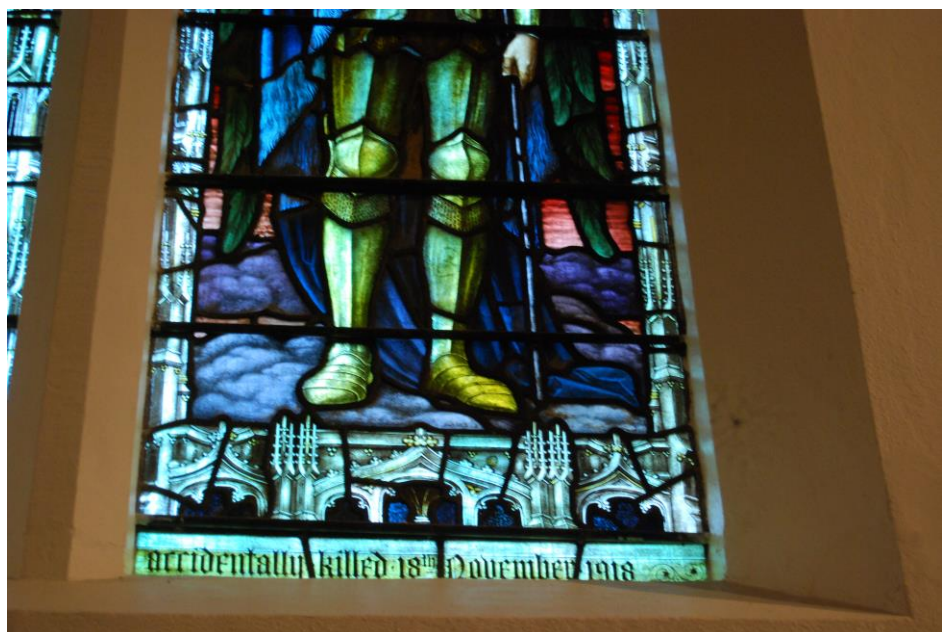
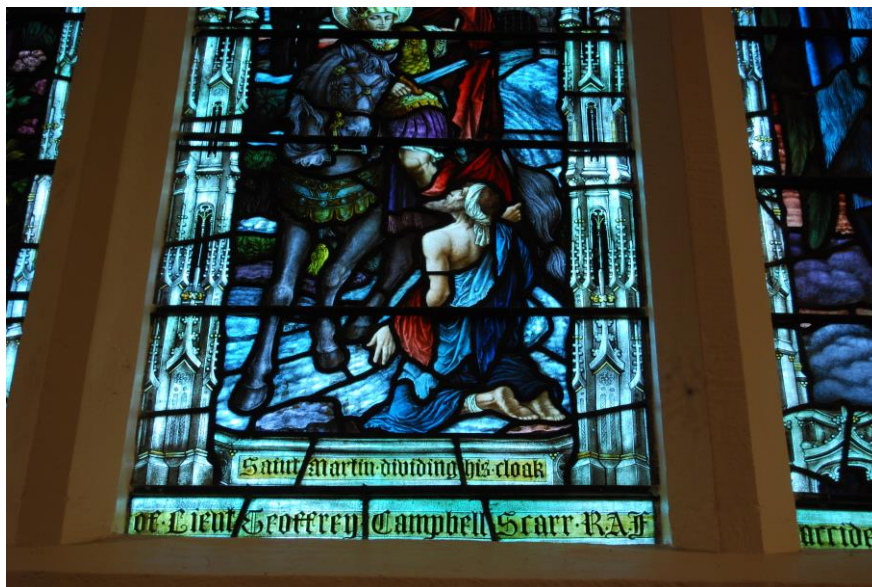


(Photos courtesy of St. Martin's Church, Killara)



Stained Glass Window of St. Martin in Memory of Lieutenant Geoffrey Campbell Scarr

To the Glory of God and in loving Memory
Of Lieutenant Geoffrey Campbell Scarr R.A.F.
Accidentally killed 18th November, 1918



G. S. Scar is remembered on the World War 1 Honour Roll in War Memorial Chapel in St. Martin's Church, Killara, NSW.



(Photo courtesy of St. Martin's Church, Killara)

The Royal Air Force Museum holds an album of photographs taken by Lieutenant Geoffrey Campbell Scarr & other memorabilia (Pre-enlistment portrait photograph Original silver bromide photo of Officers Staff Course , Subathu , India . Post Card of Subathu Hospital with note home , verso . Real Photo postcard of the CSR Service Honour Roll RECORD Of WAR SERVICE book published by CSR in 1920 . Fifty pages of thumbnail biographies of their servicemen. One noted by Scarr's wife as Scarr's groomsman in 1910 (KIA) . Copy of letter written by Scarr to a little girl, "Tods") that was sold at auction on 21st February, 2015.

Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial, British Royal Air Force Officers' Service Record

Photos of Geoffrey Campbell Scarr



Newspaper Notices

DEATH OF AN AIRMAN

Mrs H. H. Scarr, of Killara, has received information from the Royal Air Board that her only son, Flight Lieutenant Geoffrey Campbell Scarr, was killed in England on November 18, as the result of an aeroplane accident. Lieut. Scarr, who was the son of the late Mr H. H. Scarr, manager of the City Bank of Sydney, was educated at the Sydney Grammar School, and was at the time of enlistment, a member of the chemical staff of the Colonial Sugar Refining Company. After spending some time in India with the Pioneers, he joined the Royal Flying Corps, and saw active service in Palestine until January of this year, when he was transferred for duty in England as instructor in aerial gunnery.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW 30 November, 1918)

ROLL OF HONOUR

Accidentally killed in England on November 18, 1918, Flight-Lieutenant Geoffrey Campbell Scarr, Royal Air Force, only son of the late Henry Holdsworth Scarr and Mrs Harriet Scarr, of Killara, aged 26.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW 30 November, 1918)

Shorncliffe Military Cemetery, Folkestone, Kent, England

Shorncliffe Military Cemetery belongs to the Ministry of Defence and contains war graves of both World Wars. It is close to the military camp at Shorncliffe, 2 miles west of Folkestone

During the First World War a number of Canadian military establishments were centred on Shorncliffe. There were camps and a Machine Gun School which were served by the Shorncliffe Military Hospital (later No. 9 Canadian General), the Moore Barracks Military Hospital (later No. 11 Canadian General), and other Canadian hospitals. The Canadian Army Medical Corps Training Depot was at or near Shorncliffe during almost the whole of the war. On three occasions Canadian soldiers were killed during air raids on Shorncliffe.

Shorncliffe Military Cemetery contains 471 First World War burials, more than 300 of them Canadian. Second World War burials number 81, including 1 unidentified U.K. soldier and 1 Polish Foreign National. The cemetery also contains a screen wall on which are commemorated 18 Belgians originally buried in a mausoleum, now demolished.

There are 11 Australians from World War 1 buried in this Cemetery – 2 with Royal Air Force.

(Information from the CWGC)



Shorncliffe Military Cemetery, Folkestone *(Photo courtesy of Paul Kendall)*



Shorncliffe Military Cemetery, Folkestone (Photo above courtesy of Paul Kendall & below Stephen Summerfield)



Photo of Flight Lieutenant Geoffrey Campbell Private Headstone in Shorncliffe Military Cemetery, Folkestone, Kent, England.



(Photo courtesy of Paul Kendall)

*In Loving Memory Of
FLIGHT LT. GEOFFREY C, SCARR
R.A.F.
Sydney, Australia
Accidentally Killed Nov. 18TH 1918
While On Military Duty
Aged 26 Years*





Cross of Sacrifice *(Photo courtesy of Paul Kendall)*