CAPTAIN WILLIAM HOPTON ANDERSON DFC CdeG

Born in Kew, Victoria on 30 December 1891

Grew up at 32 (now 20) Jolimont Terrace, Jolimont

Attended Melbourne Grammar School, where he was an outstanding student and a member of the school's cadet corps and rifle team

Joined the army immediately on leaving Melbourne Grammar School, and granted a permanent commission with the Royal Australian (Garrison) Artillery

Promoted to Lieutenant in March 1915, and transferred to the Australian Naval and Military Force in German New Guinea

Joined the Australian Flying Corps, AIF and given a commission in January 1916; sent to train as a pilot in England

Flew surveillance missions over enemy lines in France in August 1917 as a Flight Commander in the No. 3 Squadron, Australian Flying Corps

Attacked by German forces flying a mission on 21 October 1917; his 'gallant and skilful' fighting helped him evade the enemy and make it back to base



Anderson at training camp, Point Cook. AWM DAAV00020

Ten days later, fought off attack by four German aircraft with another Australian plane

Awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross (June 1919), the Belgian Croix de Guerre (July 1919) and mentioned in despatches; recommended for the Military Cross

Rose through the ranks of the Royal Australian Air Force between the wars, as Wing Commander, Group Captain, Air Commodore and in 1941 Acting Air Vice Marshal

Retired from the service in 1946 to his family home at 32 (now 20) Jolimont Terrace, Jolimont

Died in 1975

Commemorated in a stained glass window in Holy Trinity Church, East Melbourne, where he had been a vestry member for many years.



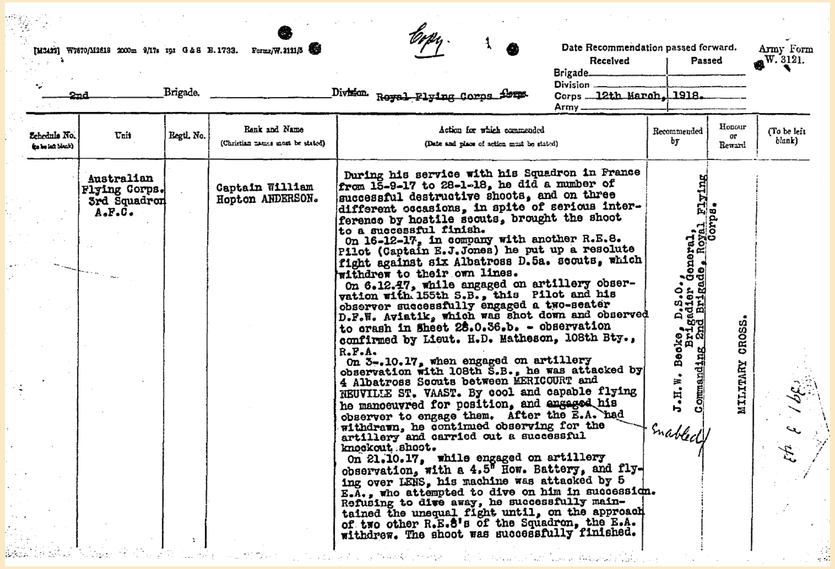
Commanding Officer and Officers of 3 AFC at Bailleul, November 1917. Captain Anderson front row, centre, with legs crossed. AWM E02765



Supplies dropped into the battlefield by parachute. AWM E03845



Fighting over Zonnebeke, near Ypres, 4 October 1917.
NLA.PIC-an23478257



[M3425] W1870/M1218 2000m 9/17s 1pr G & S E.1732. Forms/W.3121/5

Army Form W. 3121.

Date Recommendation passed forward.

	Received	Passed
Brigade		
Division		
Corps	12th March, 1918.	
Army		

2nd Brigade. Division. Royal Flying Corps Abgs.

Schedule No. (to be left blank)	Unit	Regtl. No.	Rank and Name (Christian names must be stated)	Action for which commended (Date and place of action must be stated)	Recommended by	Honour or Reward	(To be left blank)
	Australian Flying Corps. 3rd Squadron A.F.C.		Captain William Hopton ANDERSON.	During his service with his Squadron in France from 15-9-17 to 22-1-18, he did a number of successful destructive shoots, and on three different occasions, in spite of serious interference by hostile scouts, brought the shoot to a successful finish. On 16-12-17, in company with another R.E.8. Pilot (Captain E.J.Jones) he put up a resolute fight against six Albatross D.5a. scouts, which withdrew to their own lines. On 6.12.17, while engaged on artillery observation with 155th S.B., this Pilot and his observer successfully engaged a two-seater D.F.W. Aviatik, which was shot down and observed to crash in Sheet 28.O.36.b. - observation confirmed by Lieut. H.D. Matheson, 108th Bty., R.F.A. On 3-.10.17, when engaged on artillery observation with 108th S.B., he was attacked by 4 Albatross Scouts between MERICOURT and HEUVILLE ST. VAAST. By cool and capable flying he manoeuvred for position, and engaged his observer to engage them. After the E.A. had withdrawn, he continued observing for the artillery and carried out a successful knockout shoot. On 21.10.17, while engaged on artillery observation, with a 4.5" How. Battery, and flying over LENS, his machine was attacked by 5 E.A., who attempted to dive on him in succession. Refusing to dive away, he successfully maintained the unequal fight until, on the approach of two other R.E.8's of the Squadron, the E.A. withdrew. The shoot was successfully finished.	Flying Corps.	MILITARY CROSS.	

J.H.W. Beoke, D.S.O., Brigadier General, Commanding 2nd Brigade, Royal Flying Corps.

Recommendation for Military Cross. AWM



Members of 3 AFC, fixing bombs to their plane. AWM E01176