

# Durrington Cemetery

## War Graves



*Lest we Forget*

### World War I



SECOND LIEUTENANT

**G. B. MCSWEENEY**

ROYAL AIR FORCE

25TH JULY, 1918



## George Bampffield McSWEENEY

George Bampffield McSweeney was born on 30<sup>th</sup> January, 1895 at York, Toronto, Canada to parents Edward & Mary McSweeney (nee Jordan). Edward McSweeney was recorded as a Telegraph Operator.

The 1901 Census of Canada listed George B. McSweeney as a 6 year old living with his family in the district of York (West), Ontario, Canada. His parents were listed as Edward McSweeney (aged 33) & Minnie McSweeney (aged 32). George was one of five children listed on this Census – Mary I. (aged 8), Edward J. (aged 7), then George, Gordon W. (aged 4) & Helen C. (aged 5 months). Also listed was Linda Jackson (aged 22, Domestic).

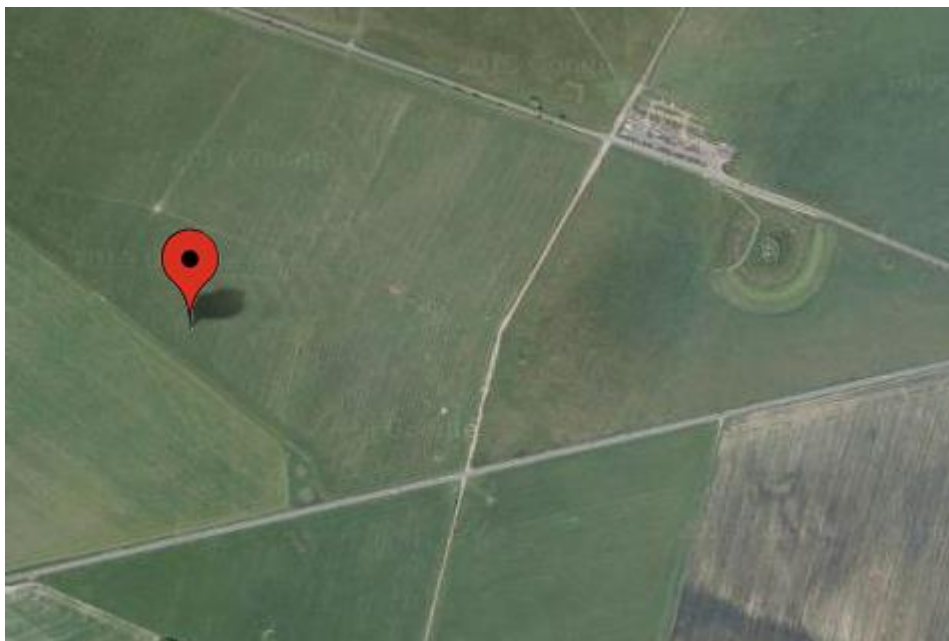
George Bampffield McSweeney was Secretary to the Builders' Exchange from December, 1913 to January, 1918.

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.

George Bampffield McSweeney was appointed Temporary Probationary Flight Officer on 7<sup>th</sup> January, 1918 as part of the Naval Wing (R.N.A.S.), Royal Flying Corps.

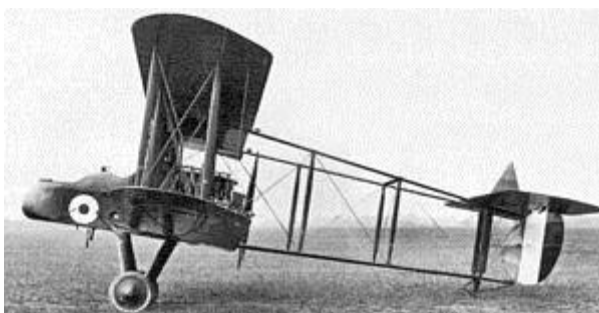
George Bampffield McSweeney was appointed Second Lieutenant on 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1918.

Second Lieutenant George Bampffield McSweeney was attached to 1<sup>st</sup> School of Navigation and Bomb Dropping, Royal Air Force. This was located at an aerodrome close to Stonehenge, Wiltshire.



**Location of RAF/RFC Stonehenge from Nov 1917- Oct 1921**

Second Lieutenant George Bampffield McSweeney was piloting FE 2b (Farman Experimental) A6596 from No. 1 School of Navigation and Bomb Dropping at Stonehenge, with Flight Cadet Clement Charles Haskew (formerly 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, Durham Light Infantry) as Observer when both airmen were killed in an accident on 25<sup>th</sup> July, 1918.



**FE 2b**

Second Lieutenant George Bampffield McSweeney was killed in an Aero accident on 25th July, 1918 in England.

A death for George B. McSweeney, aged 23, was registered in the September quarter, 1918 in the district of Amesbury, Wiltshire, England.

Second Lieutenant George Bampffield McSweeney was buried in Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire in Grave / Plot Number 290 on 29<sup>th</sup> July, 1918. His death is acknowledged by Commonwealth War Graves Commission & as such he has a CWGC headstone.

## **Newspaper Report**

### **GEO. McSWEENEY KILLED**

#### **Joined R.N.A.S. In January – Was Well-Known Parkdale Boy**



Lieut. Geo. McSweeney, Willard Apartments, Triller Ave., is reported killed in an airplane accident, although the official notification does not state whether the accident occurred in England or in France. A recent letter from the young aviator stated that he expected to be on the firing line shortly.

He enlisted last November, and was allowed until January to straighten up his affairs, and had since that time been training in England. Previously he had been secretary of the Builders' Exchange.

He was a graduate of Parkdale Collegiate, and was a member of the Parkdale Athletic Association. He was a son of the late Edward McSweeney, and is survived by his mother, two sisters, Irene and Helen, and two brother, Edward and Gordon, all of Toronto.

*(Toronto Evening Telegram – July 30<sup>th</sup>, 1918)*

Second Lieutenant George Bampffield McSweeney is remembered on page 591 of the Canadian First World War Book of Remembrance, Canadian Virtual War Memorial.

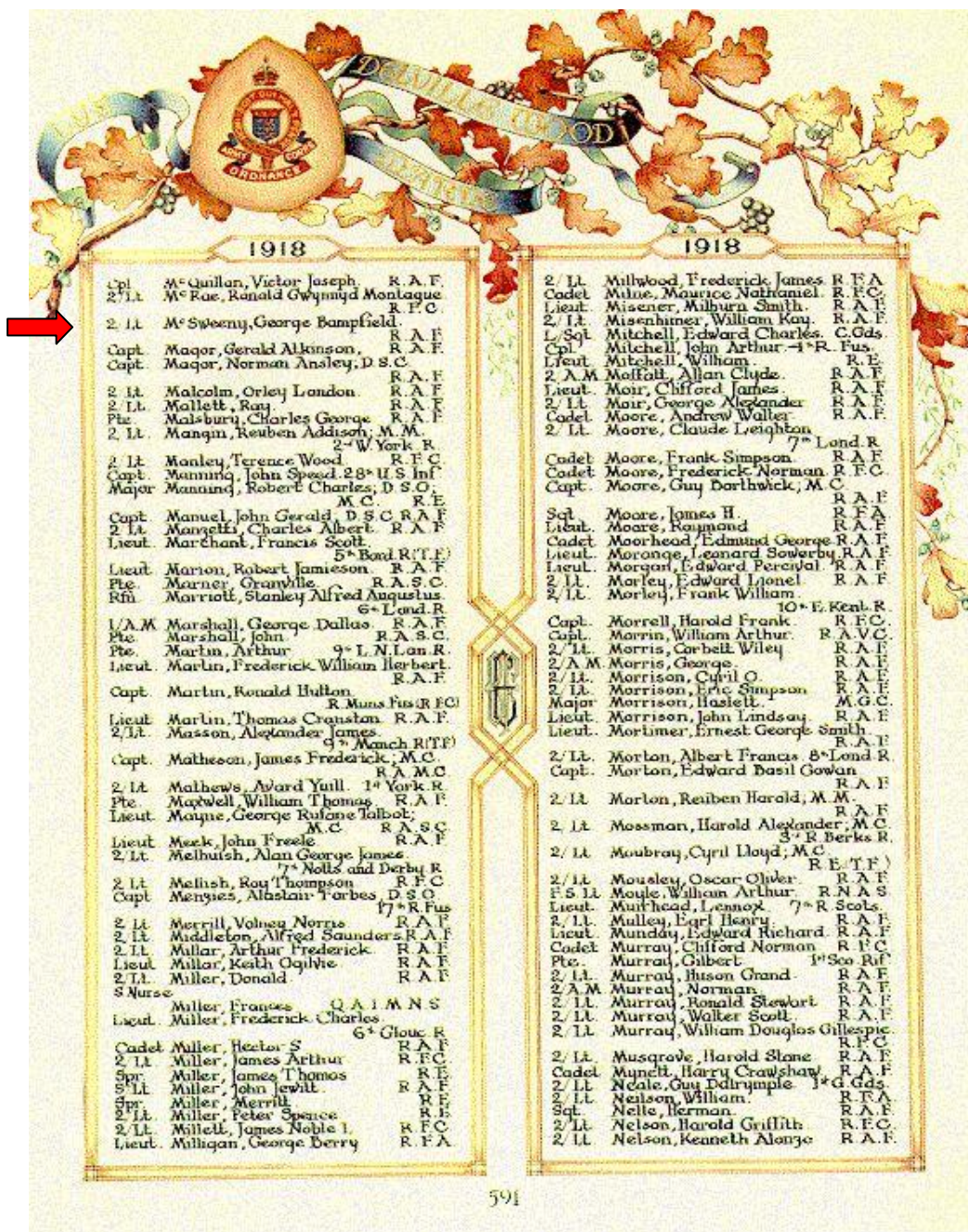


Photo of Second Lieutenant G. B. McSweeney's headstone at Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire.



*(Photo by Ian King- 2010)*