




## TASMANIAN AVIATION HISTORICAL SOCIETY Incorporated

### TASMANIAN BORN AIR ACES OF WORLD WAR 1 ALLAN RUNCIMAN BROWN

#### Allan Runciman Brown

*Author: W Dearing, December 2020*

	<b>Allan Runciman Brown</b>	
	<b>Born:</b>	<b>April 24, 1895, Launceston</b>
	<b>Joined:</b>	<b>August 24, 1914</b>
	<b>Died:</b>	<b>January 27, 1966</b>
	<b>Serial Number:</b>	<b>1961</b>

Born in Launceston, Tasmania, Captain (later Wing Commander) Allan Runciman Brown was a World War I flying ace credited with five aerial victories.

Brown originally served with the Australian Artillery. He transferred to the Royal Flying Corps on 5 December 1916 and was assigned to No. 68 Squadron RFC/1 Squadron AFC in Egypt. There he was teamed with Lieutenant Garfield Finlay as his observer/gunner on Bristol F2b Fighters; who was his gunner for four of his five triumphs. Brown's modus operandi was to force enemy planes into landing, and then destroy them on the ground with bombs and bullets. He scored his first win on 3 May 1918 near Suweilah, and his last one on 22 August 1918 at Ramleh. He also carried out successful ground attacks on cavalry and gun emplacements.



**BRISTOL FIGHTER F.2 (Type flown by Allan Runciman and Garfield Finlay)**



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Following an action on 22 August 1918 Brown, then an Acting Captain, was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC). The citation is printed below:

#### **Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC)**

#### **Lieut. (A./Capt.) Allan Runciman Brown (Australian F.C.). (EGYPT)**

On 22 August Capt. Brown, with Lieut. Finlay as his observer, attacked an enemy two-seater, forcing it to land in our lines. On four other occasions these officers have engaged and destroyed enemy aircraft, displaying marked gallantry and skill. In addition, they have rendered most valuable service in attacking enemy cavalry, anti-aircraft guns and other ground targets, inflicting heavy loss.



#### **World War One Distinguished Flying Cross**

<b>Allan Runciman Brown's Victories</b>					
<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Unit</b>	<b>Aircraft</b>	<b>Observer</b>	<b>Location</b>
03 May 1918	0700	1 (AFC)	Bristol Fighter (B1149)	Lt G Finlay	SW of Suweilah
08 Jun 1918	0700	1 (AFC)	Bristol Fighter (B1284	Lt H A Letch	SE of Amman
27 Jun 1918	0645	1 (AFC)	Bristol Fighter (B1149)	Lt G Finlay	Kutrani
28 Jul 1918	1200	1 (AFC)	Bristol Fighter (B1149)	Lt G Finlay	Wadi Fara
22 Aug 1918	1315	1 (AFC)	Bristol Fighter (B1284	Lt G Finlay	Ramleh

Following the War, Runciman returned to Australia where he died in Boyup Brook, Western Australia in January 1966 aged 71 years.