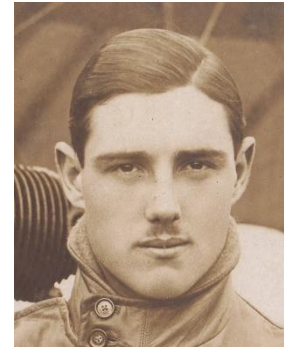


2nd Lt Alexander Burgess Anstey



DoB: 2nd July 1898

Died: 22nd February 1918

Age: 19

Buried: Wolvercote Cemetery. (grave has his age as 20)

Family:

Born in Secunderabad, India to Rev. John and Agnes Anstey. He was a scholar boarder at Kingswood School, Lansdown Road, Bath and had a younger brother who survived the war and emigrated to South Africa in 1960. His father remarried to Charlotte Theobald in 1902 in Wandsworth.

Military Career:

Commissioned as a Temporary 2nd Lt on Probation on 5th August 1916. Graduated as a Flying Officer on 28th February 1917. Wounded with 48 Sqdn in April 1917 ("Bloody April"). Transferred to 35 TS on 4th November 1917 just before it moved to Port Meadow. Alexander appeared to be fit enough for non flying duties by January 1918 and for flying duties by 12th February 1918 when he was indicated to be a "dual control expert" with 35 TS and presumably an instructor.

Accident:

Port Meadow. Alexander was piloting BE2e A8637 when the right wings folded back with the sound "like a shot from a gun" after diving too steeply and then trying to pull up. The aircraft nosedived into the ground and caught fire. Court of Inquiry judged death was accidental due to an "error of judgement" upon the part of the pilot. Alex was the youngest casualty associated with Port Meadow aerodrome. His funeral was well attended by his brother Hugh, uncle (Admiral W J Anstey) and cousin, and RFC and RNAS officers, WAAC and a representative from the servants of the officers at Field House (Woodstock Road billet).