

2nd Lt Cecil John Buckland



DoB: 5th July 1895

Died: 19th August 1918

Age: 23

Buried: Holt Old Cemetery Wiltshire

Family:

Born in Holloway London to Arthur and Mary Buckland. 3 siblings – 2 older, 1 younger. Cecil's father was a commercial travelling salesman and Cecil was a carburettor salesman prior to enlisting.

Military Career:

A Lance Corporal and then a Company Sgt Major in the London Regiment, Cecil was posted to France in March 1915. Commissioned a 2nd Lt in 5th Bn Royal Fusiliers 26th November 1917, and then transferred to the RFC. Posted from the No.1 School of Military Aeronautics at Reading to Port Meadow on 4th May 1918. He had 33.25 hours flying solo at the time of the crash, of which 12.5 was in Bristol Fighters. He was still a Cadet with 44 TDS at the time of his death.

Accident:

Wytham. In Bristol Fighter C4675 Cecil attempted a left turn at 100 ft and stalled, spinning into ground followed a few seconds later by the petrol tank igniting. The Court of Inquiry verdict was accidental death following entering into a spin with insufficient height to recover. One of numerous floral emblems at the funeral read "In ever-loving memory of a dear brother-in-arms, Officers' Mess, Port Meadow, R. A. F"