

Captain Everil Edwin Froneman MC



DoB: 16th December 1892 **Died:** 21st July 1918 **Age:** 25

Buried: All Saints Church, Ascot

Family:

Born in South Africa, Everil worked in farming and mining before becoming a contractor in Eastern Province. He could speak 8 languages.

Military Career:

On the outbreak of war in 1914, Everil enlisted in 12th Btn South African Infantry and fought in the East African campaign. He was awarded the MC, and was Mentioned in Dispatches, in March 1916 for actions in Tanzania. He was wounded and spent over a year recovering in hospital. He sailed from Cape Town in mid-August 1917 and upon arrival 5 weeks later, applied for a transfer to the RFC. His application was approved on 4th October and he was permitted to keep his rank of Captain. He attended the No.1 School of Aeronautics in Reading from 10th October. It's not clear which squadron he learned to fly with, but he graduated as a Flying Officer in the rank of Captain on 24th February 1918. He was serving with 44 TDS at Port Meadow at the time of his accident.

Accident:

Foliejon Park, Ascot. Everil was piloting Bristol Fighter C4788 which crashed while looping. The engine had failed following an earlier fault, although there was insufficient official evidence on the cause. They were apparently thanking Princess Hatzfeldt, who had hosted them for lunch at her Foliejon Park estate, after landing there to fix an initial engine fault.

They were on official 44 TDS business at the time of the accident. They were buried with full military honours, sharing the same headstone.