

Air Mechanic 2nd Class Rhys Roberts Humphreys



DoB: 4th April 1897 **Died:** 15th March 1918 **Age:** 20

Buried: Penrhyndeudraeth (Nazareth) Calvin Methodist Cemetery

Family:

Born in Penrhyndeudraeth Festiniog, Merioneth to John and Elizabeth Humphreys. 1 sibling who died some time before WW1.

Military Career:

Rhys enlisted 20th October 1916. Prior to enlisting, he had spent 4 months in the OTC and 12 months as a 2nd Lt in the Welch Regiment, effective from 30th August 1915, which he relinquished. Served in France 10th to 22nd December 1916 and returned to England until April 1917, when he then transferred to RFC.

Accident:

Wolvercote Common. Piloting Bristol Fighter C4647 Capt Edward Norris, instructor and 2nd in command at Port Meadow, was practising looping at over 3,000 ft directly above Port Meadow when, on the third loop, the left wings folded and the plane plummeted to the ground. The impact on nearby Wolvercote Common, close to the surviving "Target" building, was so severe that the engine was buried more than 3 feet into the ground, and the plane exploded into flames. No blame was attributed to the pilot and the cause was unclear. Rhys was undergoing flying instruction at the time of the accident.