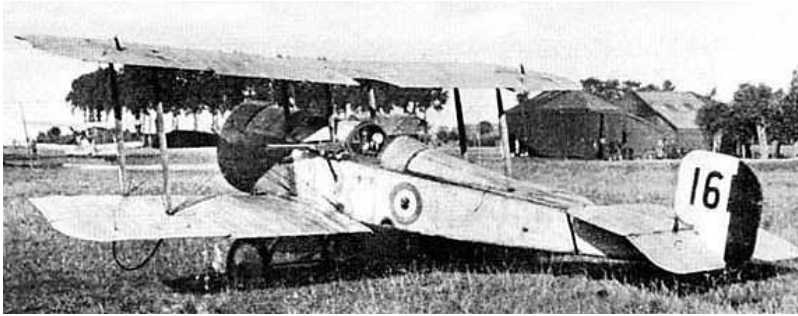


Lt Ernest Donald Wallace



DoB: 25th October 1888

Died: 27th March 1917

Age: 28

Buried: Wolvercote Cemetery on 31st March 1917

Family: Born in Belleville, Ontario Canada to Robert (emigrated from Ireland 1862) and Mary Ellen (born Ontario of Scottish descent) Wallace. There were 5 siblings – 3 older, 2 younger than Ernest.

Military Career:

Volunteered for the 34th Regiment Volunteer Militia in 1914. Lieutenant (Lt) in 1st Canadian Motor Machine Gun Brigade, No.68 Squad. Transferred to RFC 9th August 1916 and attended No.1 School of Military Aeronautics in Reading and then 2 training squadrons before arriving at Port Meadow. His flying Certificate was taken on a Voisin bi-plane at the Military School Oxford on 4 November 1916. Major Charles Cleaver Miles (CO 40 Reserve Sqdn) considered him a “very promising” pilot. The squadron used 6 Avro 504 and 6 Bristol Scouts. He had flown 115 minutes on Scouts.

Accident:

Cumnor Hill (Hen Wood) Botley, West Oxford. Ernest's Bristol Scout (A1749) single-seater fighter stalled while flying low, and nosedived into the ground, probably while looking for a landing place. Cause unknown. At his funeral, his coffin was draped in the Union Jack and escorted to the cemetery by 150 officers & men of RFC. His brother (Gunner Alford Wallace) was present. Wreaths from parents, Commanding Officer, Officers, NCOs and men of the RFC from the aerodrome. Following the crash a marble headstone with kerbing was erected by his friends. Ernest was the first casualty associated with Port Meadow aerodrome.