

MAJOR CHARLES HEReward BECKER (1912-14)

Date of Birth	7 July 1897
School Information	Sub-Prefect. Cricket XI 1914. Football XI 1913-14. Hockey XI 1914. Sergt OTC
Career Information	None
Date Of Death	8 August 1918
Cause of Death	The following is taken from the Scioto Gazette on Friday 9 August 1918 :- <i>CAPTAIN BECKER OF THE BRITISH MISSION KILLED WHEN MACHINE GUN GOES OVER HIGH BANK</i> <i>Capt Charles E. Becker, of the British army, lies dead at Ware's mortuary, and Lieut. William H. Nell, of the American army, is in the Base Hospital, with a broken shoulder, as a result of an early morning drive to the Artillery Range in the Stoney Creek section, for the big car which was driven by Jack McCoy, went over the steep embankment near the Morgan Wood house, and crushed the occupants under it. Capt. Becker had his neck broken and died almost instantly, and Lieut. Neil was caught on the shoulder. There were in the car, besides, these two, Chub Wadley and the driver, and two other lieutenants from Camp Sherman.</i> <i>The trip was essayed about two o'clock Friday morning, and was the result of the driver not knowing the roadway, and but few of the occupants, if any, were thoroughly familiar with it. One lieutenant said that he would direct the driver and when the sharp turn came, after crossing the little iron bridge at Pride, he yelled "turn to the right," but the car's momentum was too great for it to respond quick enough, and it went over the bank with the disastrous results noted.</i> <i>The aid of the neighbors men from the Artillery Range were secured and the injured man was rushed to the Base Hospital after a first aid dressing.</i> <i>The body of Capt. Becker was taken to Ware's mortuary, where it awaits instructions from the British embassy at Washington, as to it's disposition.</i>
Location	Stoney Creek Road, Chillicothe, Ross County, Ohio, USA
Cemetery	Chillicothe (Grandview) Cemetery Plot: Section 10, lot 138, grave #8195
Rank	Major on Chapel memorial but CWGC states Captain
Branch of Service	3 rd Battalion, East Surrey Regiment, attached to Royal Fusiliers

In August 2015 we were contacted by Jonathan Spurrell, who on behalf of his old school, Colchester Royal Grammar School (CRGS), visited the grave of Charles Hereward Becker in Chillicothe, Ohio, USA. CRGS is commemorating the lives of all the Old Colchestrians who died during the First World War by having somebody visit each grave.

He sent the following photographs and additional information. As you will see the grave clearly states that he was a Captain at the time of his death and therefore why the Chapel Memorial states Major is unclear. Jonathan says "Piecing together all in the information, it appears that Becker was a Lt. in the East Surrey Regiment; when he was transferred to the British training mission in America he was made a Temporary

Captain, attached to the Royal Fusiliers. A book about Camp Sherman had photographs of some of the French and British officers, but I couldn't find one of Becker."



Jonathan also sent a photograph of the probable site of the accident. His vehicle came over the bridge on the left (the original bridge was a small iron one) and made a sharp right turn. It was night and the driver didn't know the road. The car skidded and ended up in a ditch. He thinks this must be the ditch along where the stop sign is. Presumably the road has been widened in the past 100 years and the ditch may have been wider and deeper in 1918.

