

GEOFFREY VICTOR RANDALL (1908-09)

He was born on 16 June 1897 and was at the College with his brother **Cecil James Randall MC**.



Both he and his brother appear to have left the College before joining the senior school and little is known of where he went before joining the Royal Flying Corps. By 1916 he was a 2nd Lt in 4th Squadron of the Royal Flying Corps. On 20 July 1916 aged just 19, he was shot down over France and he is included on the Arras Flying Services Memorial as well as the College Chapel Memorial.

A great nephew of his (Chris Randall) has managed to find the following announcement in "Flight" on 11 August 1916, which gives more information on his death :-

"A fortnight before he was killed, he and his observer were attacked by four hostile machines. Lieut. Randall brought one enemy machine down, and kept the other three at a distance until he reached the British lines. Later he was attacked by eight hostile machines, shot through the head, and killed instantly. His observer climbed into the pilot's seat, and managed to get hold of the controls, when he was rendered unconscious by a shot. The aeroplane circled and grounded 400 yards from our front trenches. The observer was rescued by a padre and a sergeant under heavy fire. Lieut. Randall's squadron-commander writes :—" I am very cut up, and so is the whole squadron at losing him. . . . Twice lately I have brought his name before the proper authorities for brave and useful work and only a few days ago I was ordered to convey to him the personal congratulations of the G.O.C., R.F.C., in the field." And again in another letter :—" He was overwhelmed with eight hostile machines, but all accounts agree that he went straight into the middle of them, and he would never have cared if it had been 18 instead of eight."

There was a further report in RFC Communiqué number 44: "On the IIIrd Army front there was no activity, but on the front of the Reserve Army hostile patrols were more active and came down the line. A machine of 4 Sqn, 2nd Lt Randall and 2nd Lt Angier, was brought down, the pilot being killed."

He and 2nd Lt G M Ainger were in BE2e 2481 when they were shot down, near Contalmaison, a short way north-east of Albert.

The photo below shows his Royal Aero Club's record of him passing his flying qualifications on 13th Oct 1915.

