



Holt

World War I Casualty Biographies

BUCKLAND, Cecil John



Cecil John Buckland was born at Holloway, London, in 1896 to Arthur, a commercial traveller, and Mary Buckland. The boys in the family all worked in the infant motor industry.

Cecil joined the army in 1914 serving in the London Regiment and the Royal Fusiliers. He was commissioned on 26th November 1917 and transferred into the Royal Air Force in April 1918. It's likely that his parents had moved from Finchley Road, St. John's Wood, London to Holt as his father is named as his next of kin, with an address of Fir Lawn, Holt. Sadly he was killed in an aircraft accident on 19th August 1918.

FLYING OFFICER'S DEATH

Promising career cut short

As an inquiry into the circumstances attending the death of Cecil John Buckland, of Fir Lawn, Holt, a Second-Lieut in the Royal Air Force, aged 28, who was killed by falling with an aeroplane of which he was the pilot on Monday, was held by the Coroner for the Central Division of Oxfordshire (Mr. A. H. Franklin) on Tuesday morning.

Joseph Edmund White, 2nd-Lieut. in the Royal Air Force, said deceased was quite a good pilot. He had been altogether 33 hours and 15 minutes in the air flying by himself. On Monday morning witness started with an aeroplane at 7.40, having previously arranged with deceased, who proposed to take another aeroplane, what they would do. Turning later to land, on account of his machine giving trouble, witness observed Lieut. Buckland's machine just as it was turning to the left. The nose of the machine seemed to rush down and it automatically went into a spin. Witness continued to watch the machine until it hit the ground. After two or three seconds a huge flame burst from the cockpit. Witness landed at the aerodrome and went with Dr. Bourne and a police constable to the spot where the deceased had fallen. The body had been removed. The deceased had had 12 hours and 45 minutes experience in flying with this particular aeroplane.

George Gardner, sergeant in the American Air Force, said before deceased started everything was in good condition. Deceased made a turn to the left and then the nose of the machine seemed to sink down and he began to spin right down.

Dr. Edmund K. Bourne said the cause of death was the injuries sustained by the fall. Both ankles were broken; the left thigh was broken, the bone being through the flesh. There was a lacerated wound on the right side of the abdomen and other injuries. Death must have occurred before the burning.

A verdict of "Accidental death" was returned.

The dead officer was the son of Mr A. G. and Mrs. Buckland of Fir Lawn, Holt. He joined the Army in August 1914 and after 2 ½ years' service in France with the London regiment, having attained the rank of Sergeant-Major, he was sent home for a commission and was transferred to the R. A. F. He received his flying training at Reading and later went to Oxford where he was regarded as an efficient aviator. Before the war he was for some years a valued employee of the Zenith Carburettor Co., London.

The funeral took place at the Holt cemetery on Thursday, the Rev. T. Roberts (Vicar) officiating. The remains had left Oxford the previous day and were escorted to the railway station by some 60 members of the R. A. F. The interment also partook of a military character, the coffin being draped with the Union Jack and six officers of the R. A. F. attending. Among the relatives present were the father and mother, brother and sister, Mr. and Mrs. W. Buckland and family of Dixcroft, Mr. F. H. Buckland (Chippenham), Messrs. F. H. and W. Hart Porter (Chippenham), Mrs. J. Arthur Wilson (London) and Mr. J. Caillat (London)

Floral emblems were sent as under:-

To dear Cecil, from his broken-hearted Mother and Father

In proud and ever-loving memory of my darling brother, Cecil; love Olive. "Good son, brother, friend"

"It is a far far better rest he has gone to than he has ever known before". To Cecil, dear brother and pal from Harold, May and baby Guy.

*In ever loving memory of our beloved nephew and cousin Cecil, from Uncle Walter, Auntie Gertie, Cousins Toss, Walter, John, Elsie, Reg and Kitty of Dixcroft, Holt
In loving memory from his cousins, Fred, Dot and Lillian. Greenway Park, Chippenham.
With an affectionate farewell, from the Cadisch family, London
With deepest sympathy from his cousins at Port Meadow, R. A. F.
In ever-loving memory of a dear brother-in-arms, Officers' Mess, Port Meadow, R. A. F.
With deepest regret from the Directors and old colleagues of the Zenith Carburettor Co., London
With deepest sympathy from office colleagues at the Zenith Carburettor Co.,
In proud and loving memory of dear Cecil, Aunty Alice, Uncle Arthur and Mr. Joseph Wilson, London
With deepest sympathy, from friends S. Smith and Son, Motor Accessories, London
With deepest sympathy and sincere regret, C. W. Nichols, London
With sincere sympathy, Mr. and Mrs. F. C. Beaven, "Arboyne", Holt
With sincerest sympathy, Mr. and Mrs. J. Pafford and family, Holt
With sincere sympathy, from Maggie, Holt
With sincere sympathy, from Capt. Dennis Couzens, Holt
With sincerest sympathy, May Kennedy, Trowbridge
Spray, with love from Eddie Loxton*

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Cecil John Buckland was awarded:
Victory Off 38 167
British Off 38 167
15 Star TP/59B4/68

He is buried in Holt Old Cemetery. Grave reference Church 13.1

Cecil John Buckland, 2nd Lieutenant, Royal Air Force

Reference Sources

[Ancestry](#)

[FreeBMD Website](#)

Falconer, Jonathan – Names in stone, 2010, Bed and Bolster Publishing, 978 0 9563423 17

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