

Lieutenant Charles Russell Hastings Ffolliott Croix de Guerre (Colfe's 1902-1905)



Charles when a Sergeant

Charles was born on 6th May 1892 the only son of Charles Nicholas and Ethel Ffolliott and stepson of Henry D Barber (a Travelling Salesman) of 24 Rosenthal Road, Catford and later of 86 Burnt Ash Road, Lee. He went from Colfe's to Epsom College where he entered the Lower School in 1906.

Charles was a qualified Assayer, Metallist and Analytical Chemist and, in 1912, was working for Pardy's Mine, Macequece, Portugese East Africa (now Angola).

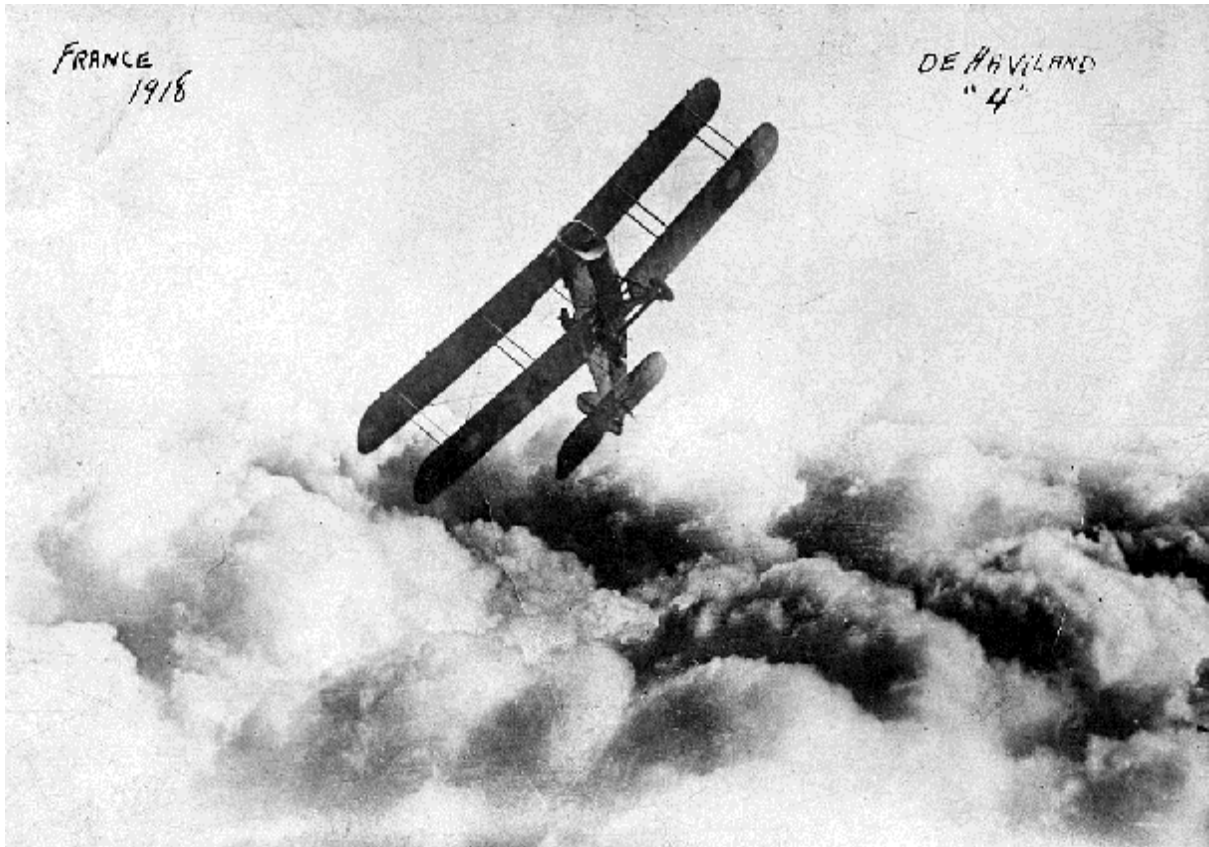
Charles joined up with the Rhodesian Legion of Frontiersmen (which was afterwards formed into the 1st Rhodesian Regiment) on 5th August 1914. He was subsequently promoted to Troop-Sergeant and transferred firstly to the Imperial Light Horse in January 1915 and then to Remington's Mounted Scouts with Brandt's Horse. In October 1915 Charles joined the Rhodesian Platoon of the King's Royal Rifle Corps. He became a Second Lieutenant with the 10th Battalion of the Lincolnshire Regiment on 18th December 1915, later serving with the 11th Battalion and the Trench Mortar Battery before transferring from there to the Royal Flying Corps on 24th September 1917.

Charles served in German South-West Africa with General Botha and in France. He was wounded four times and was killed in action on 10th March 1918 while serving as an Observer with 18 Squadron in the Airco DH4 serial number A7719 piloted by Second Lieutenant J N B McKim, receiving the Croix de Guerre (Belgian) posthumously shortly afterwards. In February 1918 he had flown as Observer in the DH4 piloted by Canadian ace, Alfred Clayburn Atkey, when he shot down two of the thirty-eight enemy aircraft accredited to him.

Charles is buried and remembered in Rue Petillon Military Cemetery, Fleurbaix near Armentieres (I.G.25). He is also remembered on the memorial at St Saviour's Church, Lewisham High Street.

Charles married Mary Eleanor Catherine Murray of Lewisham at St Joseph's, Gateshead, Durham on 28th April 1916. It was reported in the local press that:

'The service, which was choral, was conducted by the Rev Father McDermott. Miss Murray acted as bridesmaid, and Lieutenant Cameron, of the Lincolnshire Regiment, gave the bride away. Lieutenant Laurence Jones was the best man. Like bridegroom, he formed a member of General Botha's force. The event was attended by Lieutenant-Colonel Omerod, the Officer-Commanding of the battalion, and about thirty brother officers. The bride was in a simple frock of white silk and lace, and wore a veil and orange blossom, and carried a beautiful bouquet. The bridegroom's mother was attired in a champagne silk and ninon, with large black picture hat and roses. A reception was held at Holy Trinity Vicarage, lent by the Rev and Mrs Hone Spencer. The officers of the battalion presented the happy pair with a silver tea tray.'



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