

BERRY, OSWALD WILLIAM 2nd Lieutenant 9th Battalion

THE KING'S OWN SCOTTISH BORDERERS

Attached to the

ROYAL FLYING CORPS, 48 SQUADRON

Killed in Action France / Flanders 8th April 1917

Ref: 'Officers Died in the Great War, 1914-1919', and 'Commonwealth War Graves Commission'.

Compiled from information received from Roger Berry of Chichester, nephew of the above.

Oswald William Berry is the son of Elias Sumner Berry and Margaret Ann, his wife, of 17 Argyle Road, Southport.

Oswald went to British Columbia, Canada about 1912 to fruit farm at Wallachen, Salmon Arm, B.C., but returned home shortly after the outbreak of war and joined the K.O.S.B. on 26th Jan. 1915, later transferring to the Royal Flying Corps.

He was shot down behind the German lines 8th April 1917 and a letter from the Officer Commanding 48 Squadron, R.F.C., describes the circumstances. Hopes were held initially that he had not been killed but confirmation of his death was received in the Autumn of 1917. He is buried in Plot 27, Row F, Grave 21, in Cabaret-Rouge British Cemetery, France.

2nd Lt. Berry's name appears in the K.O.S.B. Memorial Book in the Scottish War Memorial at Edinburgh Castle, and also on the following local memorials:-

War Memorial, Church Road, Leyland
St. James Memorial, Moss Side, Leyland
United Reformed Memorial, Hough Lane, Leyland
Mural Plaque in Balshaw's High School Leyland

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Oswald Wm. Berry is buried in the:-

CABARET-ROUGE BRITISH CEMETERY, SOUCHEZ, FRANCE

Grave Ref:- Plot 27 Row F Grave 21.

The son of Elias Sumner Berry and Margaret Ann Berry of Southport.

The cemetery is located 10 km north of Arras, on the left-hand side of the D93 road to Béthune, 0.5 km south of the village of Souchez.

Continued

The following is taken from a hand written copy of a letter from the C/O of 48 Squadron to

Oswald's father:-

9.4.17 R.F.C.

Dear Mr Berry,

It is with extreme regret that I write on behalf of the whole Squadron to express our sympathy with you in losing your son yesterday during a very successful attack by one of our flying patrols who dispersed a superior number of aeroplanes. He was seen to go down on the German side of the lines. Later his machine was observed on the ground right side up and therefore we hope he is alright.

He was one my best and pluckiest pilots, always keen and anxious to go out and perform his duty in that truly British manner which is the admiration of the world.

Should any further news transpire I'll write you again and I hope if you should receive any news from any other sources you will let me know, as he was universally liked by men and officers of the Squadron, all of whom would like to have any information.

Yours truly,

Vere Bettington, Major O/C 48 Squadron, R.F.C.

Berry, Oswald William.

W.E. Waring 2003