



Cleeve Prior Chroniclers

Raymond Wilfred Stanley

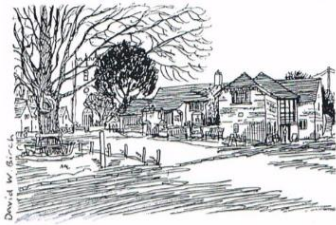


, Raymond decides to learn to fly 1n 1916 learns to fly at the Beatty School in Hendon.

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|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 3070 | |
| STANLEY, Raymond Wilfred | |
| "Newlands", Arboretum Road, Walsall. | |
| <i>Born</i> | 12th Jan. 1891 at Walsall |
| <i>Nationality</i> | British |
| <i>Rank, Regiment, Profession</i> | Cashier |
| <i>Certificate taken on</i> | Caudron Biplane |
| <i>At</i> | Beatty School, Hendon |
| <i>Date</i> | 14th June 1916 |



A Caudron Biplane



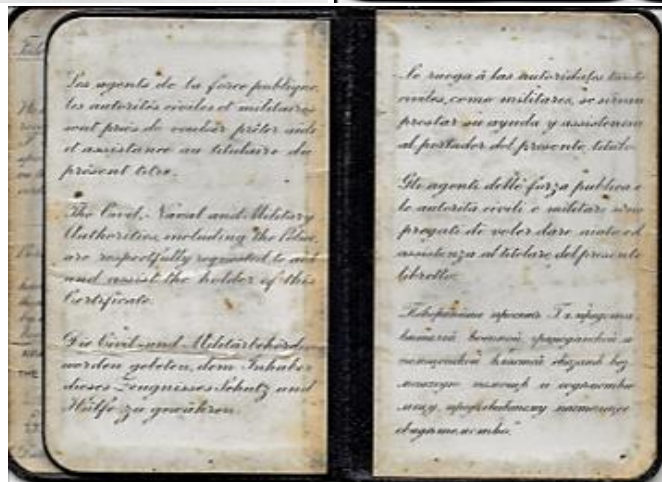
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The picture below was taken on him becoming a pilot,



Below we see his official pilots licence.





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We know he goes to Hendon in 1917 and below we see a picture of the airfield as it was in 1916



Here they would learn all they could about the planes they were to fly, and would have undergone training on tactical flying, map reading, the mechanics of the aircraft and how the aero engine works as we see in this particular photograph



The plane that he was training on was the De Havilland DH4. Stanley had just finished his flying training and was about to be sent home on leave before going to a front line squadron in France, when he went up in a more powerful De Havilland DH 8. Aeronautical engineers did not fully comprehend the power weight ratios of aircraft at the time and the DH8 proved to be extremely unstable in the air. According to one of the officers who witnessed the event was that it simply seemed to fall out the sky from about a height of 100 feet.



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De Havilland DH4

This a picture of a crashed DH8 of which there were many and although the plane did see frontline service it was withdrawn after about two months and considered by pilots as a bit of a death-trap. The German fighter ace the Red Baron actually managed to shoot 8 down in one day....he thought it was a terrific plane. The less powerful DH4 however remained in service till the end of the war and was considered a fine aircraft.



Raymond Stanley's body was bought back from Hounslow and is buried about 70 yards from here in St Andrews Church. The grave is managed by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.



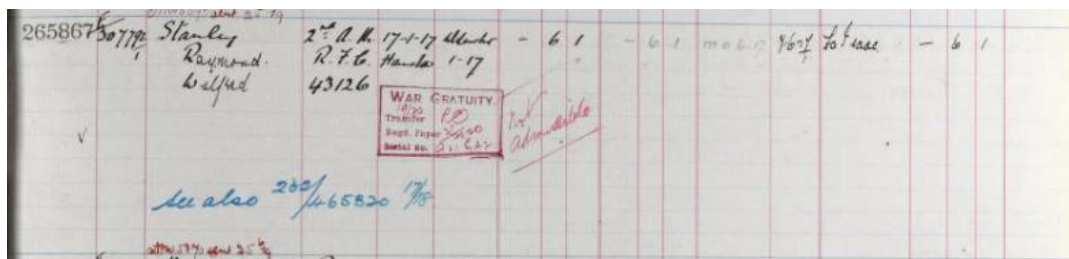
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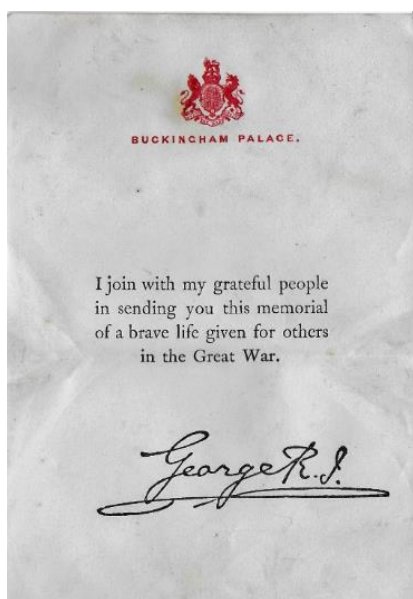


Raymond Wilfred Stanley Died aged 26 on the 17th January 1917

On his death his pay was sent to his father the sum of 6s 1d



Isaac was also sent the medal from the king to recognise the death of his son





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These artefacts are held by Mr Peter Drew who has kindly shared them with the Chroniclers

The Brothers

On the demob and pension documents of Garnett, Raymond's brother, Garnett's home is listed as Kingsmoor, Cleeve Prior, which presumably is where his parents were now living. This is now a farm. Garnett was listed with the profession of a motor mechanic, presumably he has now been retrained during his service with the Army Service Corps (Mechanical Transport).

Algernon, his brother, Married Lillian B Mclean in th summer of 1916 and we believe he survived the war as a medical orderly.

