WORLD WAR ONE

SOLDIER PROJECT ON

LANCELOT PRICKETT

by Evie Pavin-Franks
LANCELOT PRICKETT

Lancelot Prickett was born on September 3rd 1881 to Major William Robert Prickett and Maria Stuart Treffry. The family lived at Worsfield House, St. Bellops Road, Worthing.

Lancelot Prickett was educated at Rookwood College and then moved on to Woolwich Military Academy before entering in the Royal Garrison Artillery and the Royal Flying Corps.
FAMILY TREE

Capt. Lincoln Riches 1888-1916

Maj. William Robert Riches 1853-1917

Elizabeth Ann Williamson 1820-1891

Rev. Edward John Trapp 1810-1871

Anne 1816-1821

Mrs. Susan Trapp 1910-1937
Regiments

Royal Garrison Artillery – 71st Heavy Battery

The Heavy Batteries were employed in destroying and neutralizing the enemy artillery. They were equipped with heavy guns and large calibre, (diameter of gun barrel) highly explosive shells.

The Royal Flying Corps (RFC)

At the beginning of the First World War, Britain had about 93 aircraft in military service, the French Aviation Service had 130 and the German Air Service had 246. By the end of the war, each side had thousands of aircraft.

The RFC was formed in April 1912 when the military began to realize the potential that aircraft had for observation purposes. It was because of this reason that the RFC went to war in 1914 for artillery observation and to survey the enemy front above. The RFC had trained before the war by ومنing the aircraft, but it was difficult. They needed to be able to take off from the tower while avoiding the propeller and other distractions such as the wings. In the early part of the war, the risk of injury was very high due to this and many accidents occurred. As aircraft equipment developed, the dangers to accuracy increased drastically and by the end of the war the loss rate was 7% in 4 killed, a similar amount to the trenches.

The uniform of a Lance Corporal in the Royal Flying Corps in April.

For much of the war, RFC pilots faced an enemy with superior aircraft, particularly in terms of speed and a better flying training system. The weather was also a significant issue on the Western Front with the wind on the side of the Germans. These disadvantages were made up for by determined and aggressive flying, although at the price of heavy losses and the deployment of a larger proportion of high-performance aircraft.
MEDALS

Lancete Pichett was awarded a 1914-1915 Star medal for his efforts in the war.

The 1914-1915 Star was authorised in 1918 and was awarded for service in specified areas of war between 5th August 1914 and 31st December 1915. A receiver of the 1914 Star could not also be awarded the 1914-1915 Star.

Eligibility
The 1914-1915 Star may be awarded to those who saw service in a specified area of war between 5th August 1914 and 31st December 1915.

The Medal
The 1914-15 Star is a four-pointed star of bright bronze with a crown. The head has two crossed arrows, surrounded by an oak wreath, and is emblazoned with the cypher of King George V. It still bears the numbers 1914-1915 so centrally placed across the crossed blades.

The Ribbon
The 1914-1915 Star ribbon has the red, white, and blue colours of the Empire, in shaded and undressed stripes. The same ribbon is used for the 1914 Star.
DEATH

PERSONALS.

Captain Lancelot Pickett died on June 2nd 1916. He was killed in a flying accident at the Newcomen Air Field in Wiltshire. He was only 28 years old.

BURIAL

Lancelot Pickett is buried on the South Boundary of Heene Cemetery in the St. Ethelburga’s extension in Worthing.

Since Pickett had quite a high rank in the Royal Flying Corps, he may have a bigger grave/memorial than someone who had a lower rank. This may be because his role was seen as more important.

“This is his grave.”
Captain Lacassé, Private 470, died on June 9th 1918. He was killed in a flying accident at the Duxford Air Field in Cambridgeshire. He was only 26 years old.

BURIAL

Lacassé, Private 470, is buried on the South Boundary of Heaven Cemetery in the Bethel Memorial in Cambridgeshire. Since Lacassé had spent a long time in the Royal Flying Corps, he may have a bigger gravestone than someone who had a shorter career. This may be because he was more important.
In Memory of

Captain

Lancelot Prickett

Royal Flying Corps who died on 02 June 1916 Age 28.

Son of Maj. William Robert Prickett (late R.A.) and Maria Stuart Prickett, of Worfield, West Worthing.

Remembered with Honour

Heene (St. Botolph) Churchyard Extension

THERE NAME LIVETH
FOR EVERMORE

Commemorated in perpetuity by

the Commonwealth War Graves Commission
CONCLUSION

I chose my soldier by looking at rota-of-honour.com, where it listed many soldiers that were from Worthing who fought in World War 1. Ernest Richett’s name stood out to me as it was not an unusual name, and reading the bits of information the website provided about him, I was very interested. I liked the fact that he was a captain in the RFC and I wanted to know more about how they played a part in World War 1. I think one of the most useful sources of information was findagame.com as it showed me a lot of very useful information such as his regiment and who his family were, as well as saying exactly where he was buried and having a picture of his grave. I believe that the information is reliable as the website must have got it from the cemetery and the grave itself.

Throughout this project, I usually didn’t face many difficulties as there was a lot of information on my soldier that I could use. I think that this is because Richett held a high rank in the RFC, which means he must have played an important role in the deployment of aircraft in the war and therefore may have more information written about him.

I found researching about my soldier enjoyable as it was always exciting when I found out new information about him.

From doing this project, I have found out more about how important the RFC were in the war and the advantages of having aircraft in the war. Overall, I found this project very exciting and interesting to do.

Websites used: rota-of-honour.com/sussex/worthing/ERH.html
- genealogy-wise.org
- www.1914-1918.net/
- www.susxgc.org
- www.findagrave.com
- National Archives
- www.roymuseum.org.uk