

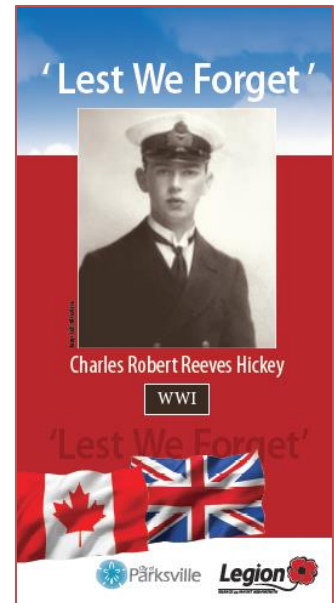
HICKEY, Charles Robert Reeves

Service Number

Rank Captain
 Medals Distinguished Flying Cross and Bar
 Royal Air Force, 204th Squadron, 61st Wing

Born September 10, 1897, Nanaimo, BC
 Died October 3, 1918

Occupation Farmer
 Marital Status Single



Charles Robert Reeves Hickey was the third child born to Major Robert H F Hickey, a British Army officer who had served in India and retired to Parksville and married Charlotte Reeves of Nanaimo. Charles grew up on the family's farm at Wembley Road in French Creek. He attended school in Parksville and spent two years as a student at Nanaimo General Hospital.

In March 1916, he enlisted with his father's regiment, the 11th Canadian Mounted Rifles and was sent to England for training. In January 1917, he received a commission with the Royal Naval Air Service, which later became the Royal Air Force.

He flew a Sopwith Camel and soon made a name for himself. Once, having downed an enemy aircraft, he landed beside it and attempted to protect the prize from Belgian citizens when a timed fuse exploded the plane, killing several bystanders and injuring Hickey.

Naming each of his planes after his girlfriend Billie, he scored 21 victories, earning a Distinguished Flying Cross and Bar and the title of 'ace'. Fighter pilots earned this title after shooting down five or more enemy aircraft during aerial combat. Charles Hickey received two medal citations in the London Gazette for his skill, initiative and success in air battles.

He was killed in a mid-air collision with another Sopwith Camel on October 3, 1918. Charles Robert Reeves Hickey is buried in Coxyde Military Cemetery in Belgium.

Sources: Photo: Parksville Museum & Archives
 Books of Remembrance, Veterans Affairs Canada
 Janet (Hickey) Trim
 Theaerodrome.com / aces
 Communitystories.ca / Vancouver Island Military Museum Society
 Wikipedia
 Imperial Vancouver Island, by J.F. Boshier
 The Daily Colonist, September 14, 1918

