

## FIELD, Archibald William

### Service Number

Rank Captain  
Royal Flying Corps, 48<sup>th</sup> Squadron

Born February 22, 1886, Lillington, Leamington Spa,  
Warwickshire, England

Died January 9, 1918, over Nauroy, France

Occupation Engineer

Marital Status Single

Archibald William Field attended school in Warwickshire, England. In March 1906 at the age of 20, he arrived in Halifax and made his way to Vancouver and took rooms on Robson Street. According to the 1911 Canada census and the Henderson's Vancouver Directory, he worked as an engineer there before moving to the Parksville area.

At the beginning of The Great War, he returned to England to enlist and was granted a temporary commission as Lieutenant in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve. As the latest military technology became available, new divisions were created and sometimes abandoned. Archibald was assigned to the newly formed Royal Naval Air Service and then to an Armoured Car Division featuring armoured Mercedes cars. In 1914, he was sent to France and saw action in Belgium.

In 1915, he was made a temporary Captain in the British Motor Machine Gun Service and sent to the Western Front. This division included motorcycle/sidecar combinations carrying machine guns, ammunition and spare parts. He was then transferred to the Machine Gun Corps and in 1916, seconded to the 11<sup>th</sup> Squadron, 13<sup>th</sup> Wing as an observer – the first designated fighter squadron in the world.

During patrols over the enemy line in the Somme, he was wounded by enemy fire. He returned to England for treatment but was left with shrapnel in his chest. On recovering, he earned his pilot's certificate and returned to France, flying a Bristol F2 Fighter in the 48<sup>th</sup> Squadron.

On January 9, 1918, Archibald William Field and his observer were shot down while taking photographs over enemy lines. The German army buried him at Nauroy. He was later re-buried at Joncourt Communal Cemetery. He is commemorated at Leamington Spa, Warwickshire.

Sources: Photo: Imperial War Museums  
Thanks to Ernie Barnum for sharing his research  
British Columbia City Directories / Vancouver Public Library  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bristol\\_F.2\\_Fighter](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bristol_F.2_Fighter)

