**Andrew John Tuke Cruickshank**

Andrew John Tuke Cruickshank was born in Notting Hill, London on 10 Nov 1897. He was the son of George Edwin and Sarah Cruickshank of 6, Blakesley Avenue, Ealing, London and 5 Stone Buildings, Lincoln’s Inn and brother of Donald Edward Cruickshank. His father was a barrister. He was educated at Seabrook Lodge, Hythe; Marlborough College and the Royal Military Academy at Woolwich. He joined the Royal Garrison Artillery and later was attached to the Royal Flying Corps. He was gazetted Second Lieutenant in the Royal Garrison Artillery on 26 July 1915 and was attached to the Royal Flying Corps shortly after he trained in observation at Netheravon, Filton and Hythe. He served with the Expeditionary Force in France and Flanders from May 1916 and died at Number 10 hospital in St Omer on 7 July, following wounds received in aerial action the same day.

He was the observer in the leading aeroplane in a group of four who were making reconnaissance over Cambrai, 15 miles from the German lines. The object of the outing having been obtained, he had just fired the signal to return when he was attacked simultaneously from the rear by three Fokkers who had been waiting behind the clouds. He brought down one but was then hit high up in the thigh. The femoral artery being cut, he lost consciousness. The pilot, Captain G L Criuckshank, had one of the controls cut, and it was only through great skill on his part that he was able to elude the Germans and get back to St Omer. His Major wrote, ‘Andrew Cruickshank was a most painstaking observer and the pilot, his namesake, who was his Flight Commander, thought most highly of him’. His Housemaster at Marlborough wrote: ‘Steady, patient, unselfish, he never gave me a moment’s trouble or anxiety all the time he was here. It is good to have known him and I cannot say more and I don’t feel able to write more.’ His preparatory schoolmaster also wrote: ‘I do not think I ever had a nicer boy in the school, so quiet, modest and loyal, and of such sterling character’. He was buried at Longueness Souvenir Cemetery, aged 18. He is also commemorated on his father’s grave in Bushey churchyard.

Source: De Ruvigny's Roll of Honour 1914 -19

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