

Blount, John Hillier

John Hillier Blount was killed in an air-crash near Beverley on 6th July 1918. The newspaper report of the inquest in Beverley reported that he “crashed in the vicinity of an aerodrome while flying at a height of 150 feet and died as a result of his injuries. A fellow officer said that the accident was due to the deceased attempting to turn when near the ground and having insufficient speed. Medical evidence showed that death was due to internal injuries. Deceased, though conscious after the accident, made no statement with regard to it. A verdict of accidental death was returned.”

JH Blount was buried at Felixstowe where his mother lived.

Name: BLOUNT, JOHN HILLIER

Initials: J H

Nationality: United Kingdom

Rank: Second Lieutenant

Regiment/Service: Royal Air Force

Secondary Regiment: Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry

Secondary Unit Text: and

Age: 19

Date of Death: 06/07/1918

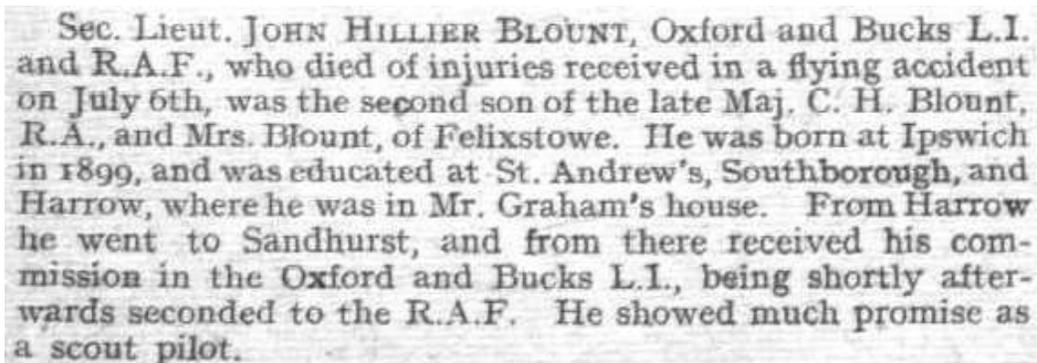
Casualty Type: Commonwealth War Dead

Grave/Memorial Reference: Near east end of church.

Cemetery: [FELIXSTOWE \(SS. PETER AND PAUL\) CHURCHYARD](#)

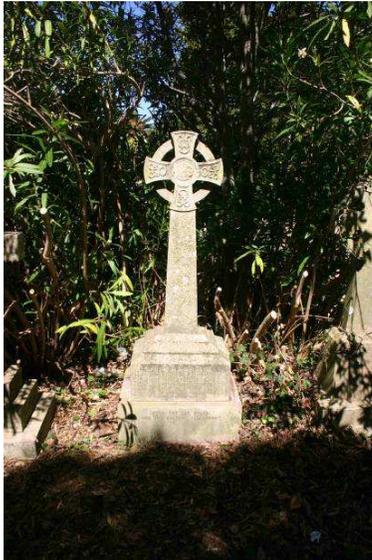
He was granted temporary commission as 2nd lieutenant on 30th April 1918. The announcement in the London Gazette indicates he was in Oxford and Bucks L.I.

An entry in the Flight magazine for August 8th 1918 reporting his death provides more insight into John's upbringing:



Sec. Lieut. JOHN HILLIER BLOUNT, Oxford and Bucks L.I. and R.A.F., who died of injuries received in a flying accident on July 6th, was the second son of the late Maj. C. H. Blount, R.A., and Mrs. Blount, of Felixstowe. He was born at Ipswich in 1899, and was educated at St. Andrew's, Southborough, and Harrow, where he was in Mr. Graham's house. From Harrow he went to Sandhurst, and from there received his commission in the Oxford and Bucks L.I., being shortly afterwards seconded to the R.A.F. He showed much promise as a scout pilot.

Mrs Bount's address is confirmed by the medal index and an earlier, shorter report as being Wadgate Cottage, Felixstowe rather than the Redgate referred to in the inquest report.



John's father Major Charles Hubert Blount married his second wife, Mary Elizabeth Bell of Pocklington in Scarborough in 1892. In the 1891 census he was married to Eleanor Maud Philips when the family lived at "The Willows" in Adel, a village in Yorkshire. In 1891, they had one child living at home, Aileen or Eileen, who was born in 1889. An earlier son, Greville Hubert Robins, was not at home but was boarding at a school in Belper. They were also married in the 1881 census and were living in Warwick but by then appeared to have no children.

Major Blount took part in the Boer War but died in of dysentery in Wynberg in 1900 shortly before its conclusion. His grave is pictured here.

In the 1901 census, John Hillier was a boarder at St. Andrew's School, Southbrough (near Tunbridge). From there he went on to Harrow public school and was in Randall's House where he is commemorated on their illuminated scroll of World War 1 dead.

John Blount is also commemorated on the Felixstowe War Memorial situated on the sea front. It takes the form of a Corinthian column surmounted by a dove on a stepped base. There are 163 names for World War 1 and 111 for World War 2. The memorial was initially unveiled by Sir Courtenay Warner on 15th August 1920 which was subsequently reported in the East Anglian Daily Times 16th August 1920.



There is a family connection between John Hillier Blount and James Hillier Blount (aka James Blunt), the famous folk/pop singer. John is James' great-great-great-uncle. James Blunt followed in the family's tradition of military service joining the Life Guards where he became a Captain and served inter alia in Kosovo. The Blount family no longer run Cley Mill, but it still operates as a bed and breakfast on a non-profit making basis. The windmill is a notable local landmark and has its own fascinating history which may be viewed here <http://www.norfolk Mills.co.uk/Windmills/cley-towermill.html>

Daily Telegraph article

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/culture/music/3645487/To-be-blunt%2C-James%2C-you-are-a-trooper.html>

In fact, soldiering is in his blood. The Blunts have been a military family for more than 1,000 years, ever since their Danish ancestors arrived in England in the 10th century. James was born in a military hospital in Tidworth in 1974. His father, Charles, recently retired as a colonel in the Army Air Corps, and both his grandfathers were soldiers.

The family's roots are in East Anglia. In 1920, the Blounts bought Cley windmill, near Cromer, which James's parents run as a guesthouse and where he stays regularly, though the family home is a few miles outside Andover, in Hampshire.

The Daily Mail (London, England); 3/18/2006

James and his father, Colonel Charles Blount, are the latest in an unbroken five generations of military men in the Blount family, starting with John Synge Blount's grandson, Major Charles Hubert Blount (1855-1900), who served in the Boer War in the Royal Horse Artillery (he died of dysentery at Wynberg, South Africa), through to James's own Army career in the 13th/18th Hussars, in which regiment his father and grandfather also served. James's mother, Jane, has brought to his ancestry more military muscle: her father, Colonel Amos from Wilton, Wiltshire, served in the Royal Northumberland Fusiliers and his uncle, David Amos, commanded the 13th/18th Hussars.

James' paternal grandmother, Polly Barclay, came from two famous Quaker families, the Gurneys, who included prison reformer Elizabeth Fry, and the Barclays, who founded the bank that still bears their name.

Daily mail article

The male line of the Blount family is as follows:

JOHN BLOUNT, early 16th century landowner, of Herefordshire. Descended from the medieval Blounts of Worcestershire GEORGE BLOUNT of Kenswick, Worcestershire

THOMAS BLOUNT of Herefordshire d. 1646

JOHN BLOUNT, gentleman, of Bromyard d. 1678

JAMES BLOUNT of Bromyard d. 1708

JAMES BLOUNT tanner of Bromyard d. 1752

JOHN BLOUNT tanner of Bromyard d. 1790

JOHN BLOUNT of Lea Hall, Yardley, Worcestershire 1755-1834. Married Martha Synge

DR JOHN SYNGE BLOUNT, surgeon, of Edgbaston, Birmingham d. 1856

DR JOHN HILLIER BLOUNT, surgeon and physician, of Bagshot, Surrey 1822-1866

MAJOR CHARLES HUBERT BLOUNT, RHA of The Beeches, Ipswich 1855-1900 pictured left in 1898 [John Hillier Blount's father. Great-great grandfather of James Hillier Blount]

BLOUNT - Major Charles Hubert - 20th Battery Royal Field Artillery
Died of dysentery at Wynberg. 23rd Feb. 1900. Aged 44. Born July 1855.

CAPT GREVILLE [HUBERT ROBINS] BLOUNT, RHA of Croydon, Surrey Born 1883. Died in France 1914 [Step-brother of John Hillier Blunt and Charles Hubert Boulby Blunt]

LT COL HUBERT BLOUNT, High Sheriff of Leicestershire 1910-1979 [He owned Cley Mill from 1921]

COL CHARLES BLOUNT b. 1946 Married Jane Amos 1970

JAMES HILLIER BLOUNT, now BLUNT, b. 1974 Sisters Emily and Daisy

Blount, Greville Hubert Robins

These are the casualty details of John Hillier's step-brother:

Name: BLOUNT, GREVILLE HUBERT ROBINS

Initials: G H R

Nationality: United Kingdom

Rank: Captain

Regiment/Service: Royal Field Artillery

Age: 31

Date of Death: 23/09/1914

Additional information: Son of the late Maj. Blount (R.A.) (killed in South African War).

Casualty Type: Commonwealth War Dead

Grave/Memorial Reference: E. 86.

Cemetery: [ST. NAZAIRE \(TOUTES-AIDES\) CEMETERY](#)

Greville was Major Blount's son by his first wife, Eleanor Maud Philips. She was born in Bagshot, Surrey in about 1861.

In 1891 census, he was a boarder at Green Hall preparatory school in Albert Street, Belper in Derbyshire. His place of birth is given as Bristol, Somerset. From there, Greville went on to Harrow School where he appears on the Park war memorial.

In the 1901 census Greville was in the RFA Barracks at Farnbrough. He was aged 18 and had the rank of 2nd Lieutenant. His place of birth is given as Bath, Somerset.

Greville married Gladys Isabel Wilson in 1907 in London.

Greville is commemorated on a memorial that is now in St Paul's Church, Knightsbridge. It had previously been in the Wellington Club in Grosvenor Place; the club was dissolved in 1934.

Charles Hubert Boulby Blunt

John Hillier had an older brother who served in both world wars with distinction. Charles was born in Kamptee, India – the only child of the family born there – on 26th



October 1893, six years before John and shortly after his father's second marriage. Charles was also a "flyer", learning to fly at the Military School, Norwich in a Maurice Firman biplane. He was awarded his GB Aero certificate in March 1916. By that time he was a Lieutenant in the Queen's Regiment. By 1918 he was a Lieutenant Colonel in the RAF as his marriage announcement in Flight magazine indicates and progressed pretty rapidly through the higher ranks of the air force.

A keen cricketer, he had played in the schools' match between Eton and Harrow at Lords in 1910, alongside a future army marshal (Alexander) and an attorney general (Moncton). He also played for the Combined

Services against Essex in 1922 but only managed to score 14 runs. As a member of the MCC, he is also recorded on the roll of honour at Lords Cricket Ground.

By the time of the second world war, Charles had risen to the rank of Air Vice Marshall. He was one of the main controllers of the British Air Force in France.

To be Married.
The engagement is announced of Lieut.-Col. C. H. B. BLOUNT, M.C., The Queen's and R.A.F., son of the late Maj. C. H. Blount, R.A., and Mrs. Blount, of Felicstowe, and BEATRICE JOAN, second daughter of the late JOHN LEMPRIERE, of Melbourne, Australia, and Mrs. Lempriere, of 9, Philbeach Gardens, S.W.

Ironically Air-Vice Marshall Blount like his brother also died in an accidental air-crash. A newspaper report of 27th October 1940 state that "The plane failed to gain height and hit a tree, after taking off. It skimmed the roofs of some houses, stripping off tiles and crashed into, a garden, smashing in the front of a house and damaging two other planes. The plane then caught fire."

Name: BLOUNT, CHARLES HUBERT BOULBY

Initials: C H B

Nationality: United Kingdom

Rank: Air Vice Marshal

Regiment/Service: Royal Air Force

Unit Text: 24 Sqdn.

Date of Death: 23/10/1940

Awards: C B, O B E, M C

Casualty Type: Commonwealth War Dead

Grave/Memorial Reference: S.W.Corner.

Cemetery: ESSENDON (ST. MARY) CHURCHYARD