

NAVAL 8 (208) Squadron Pilot

Rank:	Name:	DOB:
Flt Cdr	Johnston, Philip Andrew	27 Feb 1898
Joined Navy	RAC Cert	Service/REF No:
26 Jul 15	1369 Hendon 4 Jun 15	37349
Died:	Buried At:	
17 Aug 17	RNAS Mem Arras 53 2/70	

Mid air collision with Bennetts during combat Camel B3757

Interesting narratives in RNAS book 2

Australian but mother's address was Bristol

Auth sheets 16 and 17 aug 17 1440/205/35/4

Combat reports 15 aug 17 218/204/5/2634/8 Sqn RNAS

RAFM x003-0235 photo

Naval 8 P42 "On August 17th we lost 2 of our best fellows in a most unlucky way. A patrol of 7 Camels went off at half past 5 in the evening and during a dog-fight with a bunch of Albatross Scouts near Lens, Johnston and Bennetts collided in the air and both were killed."

Naval Aces P31 29 Apr 17 at 1925 the brothers von Richthofen added a BE 2e to each of their scores. Soon after that Jasta 11 encountered what Manfred reported as a strong enemy one seater force of Nieuports, SPADs and Triplanes. Both 1 and 8 Naval Sqns had machines up at the time and it seems to have been 6 of the latter, with Flt Cdr Arnold leading Flt Sub Lts Little, A R Knight, Philip A Johnston, Roderick McDonald and Albert Edward Cuzner, at first engaged the Germans between Fresnoy and Gavrelle

Naval Aces P34 Simpson of Naval 8 claimed a two seater on 2 May, while on the 3rd Sqn mate and future ace, 19 year old Flt Sub Lt P A Johnston from Sydney, Australia, debuted with a DIII OOC over Henin-Leitard

Naval Aces P 44 Two other Germans fell OOC to Philip Johnston. One, a Rumpler, was shared with Flt Sub Lt Jordan, a 21 year old Londoner who had worked his way up from Air Mechanic to observer to pilot during his time with the RNAS. Naval Aces P 45 Naval 8's Thornely downed a D III OOC and Johnston became an ace that morning by destroying a D III, probably killing vfw Georg Oefele of Jasta 12.

Naval Aces P 50 “Naval 8 lost an ace when Flt Cdr Phillip Johnston collided with Flt Sub Lt Bennetts. Both men were killed, their demise being credited to the German attacking them at the time Oblt Hans Bethge of Jasta 30.”

Airfields Arras P 31 “ Oblt Hans Bethge claimed 2 Sopwith Camels on 17 Aug 17 as they collided when he attacked them”

Triplane Aces P 30 includes photo of Johnston bathing

RFC Communiques 1917-18 P 81 Flt Lts P A Johnston and W L Jordan of the same Sqn attacked a Rumpler two-seater which was last seen falling on a house near Montigny.

RFC Communiques 1917-18 P 87 Flt Lt P A Johnston and R R Thornely of the same Sqn engaged 5 Albatros scouts near Gavrelle, and one into which Flt Lt Johnston fired fell and crashed, while another attacked by Flt Lt Thornely is reported by infantry to have fallen behind enemy lines.

6 kills 3 on triplane