

## NAVAL 8 (208) Squadron Pilot

<b>Rank:</b>	<b>Name:</b>	<b>DOB:</b>
Flt Cdr	Mackenzie, Colin Roy	3 May 1892
<b>Joined Navy</b>	<b>RAC Cert</b>	<b>Service/REF No:</b>
14 Jul 15	1571 2 Aug 15 Eastchurch	37313
<b>Died:</b>	<b>Buried At:</b>	
24 Jan 17	Achiet-le-Grand 53 2/140 (52 10/55)	

Sopwith Pup N5198 left 1125 am last seen 1200 Bapaume E

Last victim of Hans von Kendell Jasta 1

RNVR Surgeon Probationer on Joining

From 6 The Circus, Bath

First posted to 1 Wg RNAS on 28 Feb 16

Killed in same place as last claim a day before.

Airfields and Airmen Somme P37-39 Profile Colin Mackenzie was born on 3 May 1892 and before service in the RNAS had been a surgeon Probationer in the RNVR. He had learned to fly at Eastchurch in Aug 15 and had then been posted to the RNAS main area of operations in Dunkirk. He quickly made his mark and received a Mention in Despatches for a raid on the German aerodrome at Mariakerke and was then awarded the Croix de Guerre by the French for shooting down an enemy kite balloon in flames in the face of intense anti-aircraft fire. A further mention in Despatches was received for his work with Naval 8 while attached to the RFC. His confidential reports are excellent and described him as an "brilliant fighting pilot and Flight Leader"

Naval8 P16 " Very fine morning. Mackenzie and Corbett did the first line patrol from 6.15 to 8.30. Mackenzie got close behind a German machine like a LVG and opened fire, but his gun jammed after firing only a few shots.

Naval 8 P 22 On the 24<sup>th</sup> of January Mackenzie failed to return from an offensive patrol and we learnt eventually from the German Air Service that he had been brought down in combat and buried at Achiet-le-Grand near Bapaume. I felt it quite impossible to express adequately my admiration for this splendid officer and great gentleman. In the air, a fine pilot and a brainy and courageous leader who inspired immediate and lasting confidence, and whom the Flight would follow anywhere. On the ground a keen student of Air Tactics and fighting methods, a first class organiser, a loyal and able officer and the life and soul of

any Mess. Small wonder that he was a universal favourite and that we looked upon his loss as irreparable.

Naval 8 P 76 Naval 8 Sqn was singularly fortunate in starting its career with several men who were born leaders. Such a man was Colin Roy Mackenzie my Flight Commander when the Sqn went down to work with the RFC on the Somme front in 1916.

Our scanty knowledge of aerial fighting was soon augmented by bitter experience; the enemy were employing a great number of aeroplanes of every description on this front in 1916, and Mackenzie led us magnificently through those hectic days when we hardly knew what we were doing. I remember how he told us that when we were having a fight with another aeroplane we must bear in mind that there were two very frightened men in the picture, but the other man was the more frightened of the two. What excellent advice! For surely, if one could truly believe this, the battle was half won before the start.

The Sqn suffered a great blow when Mackenzie failed to return one day after an offensive patrol, and we heard from the enemy, after I had dropped a message over the lines asking for information, that he had crashed fatally and was buried with full military honours. So passed a born leader and brave man.

Pup Aces Appendix P80 Notes on aerial fighting (also appendix VIII, IX Naval 8)

RFC Communiques 1915-16 P321 In formation 23 Nov 16 (same day as Hope missing)

DSC Awarded ?