

2nd Lieutenant Alan Barnes

Regimental number: -

5th Squadron, Royal Air Force

born: 1898 - died: 26 September 1918

2nd Lieutenant Alan Barnes was probably born at the beginning of 1898 in Lincoln, Lincolnshire,¹ the eldest son of Charles and Annie Barnes. Charles was born in about 1868 in Cheetham Hill, Lancashire, the son Joseph and Julie Barnes,² and Annie (née Gabbott) on 8 January 1873³ in Morton, Lancashire, the daughter of Henry and Jane Gabbott.⁴ Charles and Annie were married on 18 April 1898 at St Mary's Church in the parish of St Mary Moston in Lancaster.⁵ They probably had five children:⁶ Alan, Muriel Joy (born in 1900),⁷ Geoffrey Gabbott (born in 1902),⁸ Marshall Fisher (born on 20 May 1907)⁹ and Charles Edwin (born on 17 April 1909).¹⁰

In 1901, the family was living at Thornton Villa, Hamilton Road, Lincoln Street, Botolph, Lincoln, where Charles was a mechanical engineer's draughtsman.¹¹ There is no indication of where the family was in 1911. However, at some point, the family moved to Colchester, Essex and Alan was a student at Colchester Royal Grammar School.¹²

Alan enlisted sometime before April 1915—at which time he would have been just seventeen years of age. He enlisted as a Private in the Bedfordshire Regiment (Regimental number: 140042) and went to France on 9 April 1915.¹³ At some point, he transferred to the Royal Air Force. He was flying with the 5th Squadron when he died. On 26 September 1918, less than two months before the end of the war, his plane spun, crashed and caught fire during practice landings.¹⁴ He was already dead when he was admitted to No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station.¹⁵ He was buried two days later in Duisans British Military Cemetery (Grave 54, Plot 7, Row A). He was just 19 years old.

Duisans British Military Cemetery is located in Etrun, near Arras, in France. The first burials took place in the cemetery in March 1917.¹⁶ No. 1 CCCS arrived at the beginning of September and was stationed near Duisans for two months in the autumn of 1918.¹⁷ A total of 75 patients died at No. 1 CCCS in September 1918. Very few of them were airmen.

Alan was awarded the 1914-15 Star, for service in the war against Germany between 5 August 1914 and 31 December 1915.¹⁸ However, like other Great War soldiers, he probably was also awarded the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918) and the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre). His name is included in the list of the WWI fallen located inside the entrance of the Colchester town hall.¹⁹



2nd Lieutenant Alan Barnes

Source: Margaret Cheetham Family tree, *Ancestry*

Alan's younger brother, Geoffrey, also served in the Great War at a very young age. Geoffrey was serving in the British Merchant Navy and was an apprentice on the *Gitano*²⁰ when it struck a mine and sunk on 23 December 1918, with all hands on board.²¹ He was 16 years old and the war had ended nearly two months earlier. He received the Mercantile Marine medal and British medal.²²

At the end of the war, Alan's parents were living at 171 Maldon Road in Colchester.

Alan's sister, Muriel, went to Canada, probably in 1928.²³ She was a domestic housekeeper. Although she returned to England in the early 1930s,²⁴ she eventually settled in Canada.²⁵ His brother Marshall married Frances M. Cox in 1939 in Warwickshire.

In 1939, Alan's mother, Annie, was living with his brother, Charles, at 39 Athelstan Road in Colchester.²⁶ Her husband, Charles, had died in Colchester the previous year.²⁷ Annie joined her daughter, Muriel, in Canada probably in 1947.²⁸ Annie and Muriel made a three-month visit to England in 1958.²⁹ Annie possibly died in Canada in 1966.³⁰

© 2017 BIFHSGO

¹ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 24 February 2016), entry for Alan Barnes, Registration district: Lincoln, Inferred County: Lincolnshire, Volume: 7a, Page: 506

² "1881 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 25 February 2016), entry for Charles Barnes, Registration district: Prestwich, ED, institution, or vessel: 3, Piece: 4028, Folio: 61, Page Number: 28

³ "1939 Register," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 27 February 2016), entry for Annie Barnes, Ref: RG101/1509E/008/16 Letter Code: —

⁴ "1891 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 25 February 2016), entry for Annie Gabbott, Registration district: Prestwich, ED, institution, or vessel: 4, Piece: 3271, Folio: 102, Page Number: 17

⁵ "Manchester, England, Church of England Marriages and Banns, 1754–1930," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 25 February 2016), entry for Charles Burnes, Reference Number: GB127.M794/1/2/1

⁶ "Fielding Public Family Tree," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 25 February 2016), entry for Muriel Joy Barnes

⁷ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 24 February 2016), entry for Muriel Joy Barnes, Registration district: Lincoln, Inferred County: Lincolnshire, Volume: 7a, Page: 518; "England Births and Christenings, 1538–1975," *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:J9RD-W38> : accessed 25 February 2016), entry for Muriel Joyce Barnes, 1900; citing Lincoln, Lincolnshire, England, reference - 2:30HK0GV; FHL microfilm 1,542,051

⁸ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 24 February 2016), entry for Geoffrey Gabbott Barnes, Registration district: Lincoln, Inferred County: Lincolnshire, Volume: 7a, Page: 534; "England, Select Births and Christenings, 1538–1975," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 24 February 2016), entry for Geoffrey Gabbott Barnes, FHL Film Number: 1542051, Reference ID: - 2:30HK82R

⁹ Margaret Cheetham Family tree, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.co.uk/family-tree/person/tree/34203267/person/250066778476/facts>: accessed 20 November 2017);

"1939 Register," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 27 February 2016), entry for Annie Barnes, Ref: RG101/1509E/008/16 Letter Code: —

¹⁰ Margaret Cheetham Family tree, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.co.uk/family-tree/person/tree/34203267/person/250066778476/facts>: accessed 20 November 2017); "1939 Register," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 27 February 2016), entry for Annie Barnes,

-
- ¹¹ "1901 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 25 February 2016), entry for Alan Brenes, Registration district: Lincoln, Sub-registration district: Lincoln Home, ED, institution, or vessel: 10, Piece: 3060, Folio: 51, Page Number: 28, Household schedule number: 181
- ¹² Personal communication from Laurie Holmes, 19 November 2017
- ¹³ "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 24 February 2016), entry for A. Barnes
- ¹⁴ "Royal Flying Corps," (http://www.airhistory.org.uk/rfc/people_indexB.html; accessed 24 February 2016)
- ¹⁵ "Record of Deaths, 17 February 1916–10 February 1919, a record maintained at No. 1 CCCS," *Library and Archives Canada*, (records accessed 2013 and 2016), Record Group 9, series IIC10, volume 4556, Record number 686
- ¹⁶ "Duisans British Cemetery, Etrun," Commonwealth War Graves Commission (www.cwgc.org; accessed 7 October 2015)
- ¹⁷ "War Diaries of the First World War: 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station 1914/08/13-1919/03/31," *Library and Archives Canada* (http://data4.collectionscanada.gc.ca/netacgi/nph-brs?s1=casualty+clearing&s13=&s12=&l=20&s9=RG9&s7=9-52&Sect1=IMAGE&Sect2=THESOFF&Sect4=AND&Sect5=WARDPEN&Sect6=HITOFF&d=FINDD&p=1&u=http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/archivianet/02015202_e.html&r=1&f=G; accessed 17 June 2015)
- ¹⁸ "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 25 February 2016), entry for A. Barnes
- ¹⁹ *Camulos* (<http://www.camulos.com/war/a-d.htm>: accessed 20 November 2017)
- ²⁰ "Deaths at sea, 1781-1968," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 25 February 2016), entry for Geoffrey G. Barnes, County: At sea, Series: BT 334, Box: 0076, Page: 3
- ²¹ "The story of Hull in World War One: Lost at Sea," *Kingston upon Hull War Memorial 1914–1918* (<http://www.w1hull.org.uk/index.php/our-loses/lost-at-sea>; accessed 25 February 2016)
- ²² "British Merchant Navy, First World War Medal Cards 1914–1925," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 25 February 2016), entry for Geoffrey Gabbott Barnes, Archive reference: BT 351/1/7266
- ²³ "Canadian Passenger Lists, 1865–1935," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 25 February 2016), entry for Muriel Joy Barnes
- ²⁴ "Canadian Passenger Lists, 1865–1935," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 25 February 2016), entry for Muriel Joy Barnes
- ²⁵ "Canadian Passenger Lists, 1865–1935," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 25 February 2016), entry for Muriel J. Robertson
- ²⁶ "1939 Register," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 27 February 2016), entry for Annie Barnes
- ²⁷ "England & Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations), 1858–1966." *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 25 February 2016), entry for Charles Barnes
- ²⁸ "UK, Outward Passenger Lists, 1890–1960," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 25 February 2016), entry for Annie Barnes
- ²⁹ "Canadian Passenger Lists, 1865–1935," entry for Muriel J. Robertson; "Canadian Passenger Lists, 1865–1935," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 25 February 2016), entry for Annie Barnes
- ³⁰ Margaret Cheetham Family tree, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.co.uk/family-tree/person/tree/34203267/person/250066778476/facts>: accessed 20 November 2017)