



Victoria Cross Recipient Andrew Frederick Weatherby Beauchamp-Proctor (VC, DSO, MC & Bar, DFC)

Andrew Beauchamp-Proctor was born 4th September 1894 in Mossel Bay South Africa. He was an engineering student at the University of Cape Town when WWI broke out in 1914. Leaving university, he joined the army for the South West Africa Campaign being demobilized in August 1915.

Completing his third year of studies, he joined the Royal Flying Corps in March 1917. On May 24th 1917 he was promoted from "Cadet to Temporary 2nd Lieutenant (on Probation)" in the R.F.C.

Shortly after the creation of the Royal Air Force on April 1st 1918, he was promoted to "Temporary Captain while commanding a flight".

His Citation reads:

Lieut. (A./Capt.) Andrew Weatherby Beauchamp-Proctor, D.S.O., M.C., D.F.C., No. 84 Sqn., R.A. Force.

"Between August 8th, 1918, and October 8th, 1918, this officer proved himself victor in twenty-six decisive combats, destroying twelve enemy kite balloons, ten enemy aircraft, and driving down four other enemy aircraft, completely out of control.

Between October 1st, 1918, and October 5th, 1918, he destroyed two enemy scouts, burnt three enemy kite balloons, and drove down one enemy scout completely out of control.

On October 1st, 1918, in a general engagement with about twenty-eight machines, he crashed one Fokker biplane near Fontaine and a second near Ramicourt; on October 2nd he burnt a hostile balloon near Selvjigny; on October 3rd he drove down, completely out of control, an enemy scout near Mont d'Origny, and burnt a hostile balloon; on October 5th, the third hostile balloon near Bohain.

On October 8th, 1918, while flying home at a low altitude, after destroying an enemy two-seater near Marez, he was painfully wounded in the arm by machine-gun fire, but, continuing, he landed safely at his aerodrome, and after making his report was admitted to hospital.

In all he has proved himself conqueror over fifty-four foes, destroying twenty-two enemy machines, sixteen enemy kite balloons, and driving down sixteen enemy aircraft completely out of control. Captain Beauchamp-Proctor's work in attacking enemy troops on the ground and in reconnaissance during the withdrawal following on the Battle of St. Quentin from March 21st, 1918, and during the victorious advance of our Armies commencing on August 8th, has been almost unsurpassed in its brilliancy, and, as such, has made an impression on those serving in his squadron and those around him that will not be easily forgotten.

Capt. Beauchamp-Proctor was awarded Military Cross on 22nd June, 1918; D.F. Cross on 2nd July, 1918; Bar to M.C. on 16th September, 1918; and Distinguished Service Order on 2nd November, 1918."

He was invested with his V.C. at Buckingham Palace in November 1919



Upavon and Mafeking Memorials

Remaining in the Air Force post war, he was accidentally killed while training for an air show on June 21st 1921 and was buried in Upavon Cemetery, Wiltshire. However, in August of that year, his body was returned to South Africa where he was given a State Funeral in Mafeking. He still has a Memorial in Upavon Cemetery as well as the one in Mafeking.