

R E Bush

CWGC - FLIGHT LIEUTENANT RICHARD ELDON BUSH

Royal Naval Air Service

Died 24 April 1917

Age 26 years old

Buried or commemorated at

KEYNSHAM CEMETERY Pink. D. 712.

Additional Info Son of Philip Wathen Bush and Maria Louisa Bush, of The Old Manor House, Keynsham Bristol.

He served at RNAS Westgate in 1915, was later promoted to Flight Lieutenant RNAS, before becoming the first airman to be posted to the new RNAS station at Fishguard in Wales, being billeted in the Fishguard Bay Hotel. On the morning of 24 April 1917 Bush, then aged 26 and unmarried, prepared to test a Sopwith Baby N1033, following the fitting of a new engine. He had two 16lb bombs aboard when he took off from the



harbour for a flight over the Irish Sea. However, the aircraft failed to gain enough height to clear power cables linking the power house with the wireless station. Its twin floats caught on cables and the aircraft crashed into a cliff face, bursting into flames. A sentry, Private B. Blackburn of the King's Liverpool Regiment, pulled him clear before the aircraft exploded and he was then taken to his quarters at the Bay Hotel badly burned but still conscious. Bush was treated by Dr Mortimer Thomas, the Admiralty Medical Officer, but died that morning. His body was later taken by train from Fishguard & Goodwick railway station to Keynsham for burial in the local cemetery (Keynsham Cemetery, Pink. D.712).