

## NAVAL 8 (208) Squadron Pilot

<b>Rank:</b>	<b>Name:</b>	<b>DOB:</b>
Flt Sub Lt	Bennetts, Eric Augustine	26 Aug 1895
<b>Joined Navy</b>	<b>RAC Cert</b>	<b>Service No:</b>
28 May 16	3299 Chingford	38050
<b>Died:</b>	<b>Buried At:</b>	
17 Aug 17	Cabaret Rouge XV/R/22	
	CWGC Michelin Map 53 2/28	51 15/70

Auth sheets 17 Aug 17      1440/204/35/4

Formerly Lance Cpl with the Cape Town Highlanders, attended Sherborne Boys School

Mid Air Collision with Flt Cdr P A Johnston

Combat report on 23 May 17 same mission as Pailthorpe died 218/204/5/2634

Combat Report Bray & Johnston 15 Jul 17 (Hard copy)

Casualty Book Air1/858/204/5/418

RNAS ADM/9/83

1 kill credited on 7 Jun 17

Camel 3877 5pm take off

Bennetts' body was recovered and he buried close to Mont St Eloi, Johnston has no known grave.

Crundall P29      Arrived with Crundall 10 Feb 17) from Dover on board HM Destroyer Falcon at 1pm. "Soon after 3pm we were in Dunkerque and a car took us to St Pol aerodrome. Bennetts and I had been posted to 8 Sqn RNAS"

Naval 8 P35      On the 23<sup>rd</sup> May, "A" Flight, ably led by Simpson, had a big scrap with 11 Albatross scouts within sight of the aerodrome. "C" Flight went up to help them but couldn't get there in time to be of much use, and although our fellows stuck to it splendidly, they were outnumbered and got badly knocked about. We lost Pailthorpe, and had Hall wounded. Bennett's machine was shot about badly and he himself had a marvellous escape. The day ended with a sporting attempt by a hun to bomb our aerodrome. Booker's flight

had just landed when the shout went up "Hun at 300 feet approaching the aerodrome." At the same moment all the AA for miles around (including our Lewis guns) opened up on him, and Booker, Soar and McCudden jumped into their machines and were away after him. The hun turned for home as soon as he saw he had been spotted but our fellows caught him over Souchez and gave him a hot time. In the failing light he made good his escape and was last seen over Lens. A thrilling episode which gave credit to both sides.

Naval 8 P42 "On August 17<sup>th</sup> 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."

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

Naval Aces P 35 "10 may 17. Little downed another dIII while Booker destroyed a 2 seater and Compston and Flt Sub Lt Bennetts shared another between them."

Naval Aces P 38 "4 Jun 17 " The following day he (Compston) shared in the destruction of a 2 seater, which was despatched in flames, with Flt Sub Lt Bennetts and Thornley.

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."

Triplane Aces P 30 includes photo of Bennetts. (far right)

RFC Communiques 5 Sopwith Camels of the same Sqn encountered 7 Albatros scouts. On closing with the EA formation Flt Sub Lt E A Bennetts shot down one in flames.