

Albert Ball

Albert Ball was born on 14 August in 1896 in Nottingham. Albert Ball was an English fighter pilot during the first World War. Ball scored his first aerial victory, driving down a German reconnaissance aircraft. He then switched to Nieuports, bringing down two LVGs on 29 May. He worked for an engineering company before war broke out, and in 1914 he joined the Sherwood Foresters. Being Earth bound wasn't enough for this teenager. He used his motorbike to ride to Hendon Aerodrome in Middlesex for private flying lessons which he funded himself. By the autumn of 1915, The Royal Flying Corps accepted him for their own ground school at Mousehold Heath in Norwich. In spite of his skill and daring attitude, Captain Ball was shot down and killed over Annoeuillin, near Lens, in 1917, possibly by gunfire from the ground, but exactly how he was killed is not definitely known. He won the Victoria cross, as well as numerous other medal of honours. Before he died he achieved 44 air combat victories. Albert Ball died only aged 21 and had already achieved a great deal for such a young soldier.



Albert Ball 1896-1917

