

Robert Naylor TREADWELL

Born: 1893, Durham

Parents: Oliver Ferreira Naylor Treadwell and Ellen Elizabeth (Nelly) Eames

Last known address: Brookfield, Parkhurst, Isle of Wight

Last known occupation: none

Service number: none given **Regiment:** 9th Battalion Essex Regiment
and 22 Squadron Royal Flying Corps

Service history summary:

- enlisted: 2nd December 1914
- promotion: Lieutenant, 1st June 1917
- decorations: Military Cross, British War Medal and Victory Medal

Died: 9th September 1917 **Age:** 24

Buried: [Aubigny Communal Cemetery Extension](#)

Family: Robert Naylor was born in Durham City in 1893. His father, Oliver Treadwell married Nelly Eames in 1881 and they had three children. Oliver senior was born in the Cape Colony [South Africa] c1859 but his parents had returned to England by 1871, when the family were living in Portsmouth. Robert's sister, Inez, married Major George Walford in London in 1910. He subsequently died in France in 1915. They had a son, Richard G Walford, born in 1913. It is assumed that brother Oliver had died by 1911 as in the census of that date, his parents state that only two of their three children are living. Given the South African connection, it is possible that Oliver died there, as there is no record of his death in England. Oliver senior died in 1940, aged 80, and Nelly in 1952, aged 86; both were living in Surrey.

Brother: Oliver Richard (1886)

Sister: Inez Nelly (1889)

Northwood/Gurnard connection: it would appear that the family only lived on the Island for a few years as Robert's father was a surgeon working for the Prison Service. In 1891 he was a surgeon at Durham Prison and in 1901 he was the Medical Officer at Portland Prison. On the Island they lived at Brookfield, Parkhurst, which may have been the official residence for the Chief Medical Officer, although Oliver senior states that he was working 'on his own account' despite being a Medical Officer for the Prison Service. By the early 1920s Oliver senior had moved to Hawkhurst in Surrey. In 1911 Robert (18) was living with his parents and a live-in servant at the Parkhurst address. He had no stated occupation. Following his death the Probate records show his address as being in Pimlico, London.

War record: Robert was gazetted into the Essex Regiment from a Service Battalion, Princess Charlotte of Wales's (Royal Berkshire Regiment) on December 2nd 1914. The 9th Battalion were mobilised for war and landed at Boulogne on May 31st 1915.

They were engaged in various actions on the Western Front including the Battle of Loos in 1915 and the battles of Albert, Pozieres and Le Transloy in 1916. It is therefore most likely that Robert saw a great deal of service before he subsequently applied to join the Royal Flying Corps. Robert Treadwell was gazetted as a Flying Officer on the February 10th 1917 and transferred to the General List. On the June 1st he was promoted to Temporary Lieutenant (TLt). He was seriously wounded in his back and abdomen on August 11th whilst flying a Bristol F2 Fighter (pictured), one of 15 belonging to the 22 Squadron. He died of his wounds on September 9th 1917.



He was awarded the Military Cross. The citation from London Gazette of January 8th 1918 states:

T./2nd Lt. Robert Naylor Treadwell, Gen. List R.F.C
For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. Although very Severely wounded during a combat, he succeeded in bringing back his machine against a very strong wind to his aerodrome, saving both machine and observer by his great pluck and determination. When lifted out of his machine he was utterly exhausted. He has been concerned in many successful patrols and bomb raids, showing on all occasions conspicuous dash and devotion to duty.

A notice appeared in the *Isle of Wight County Press* on September 22nd 1917:

TREADWELL. – On the 9th Sept., 1917, at a Casualty Clearing-station, of wounds received in action on the 11th August, Lieut. R Naylor Treadwell, M.C., Essex Regiment, attached R.F.C., dearly-loved and only surviving son of Mr. O. F. N. Treadwell and Mrs Treadwell, 90 St. George's-square, S.W.1, and dear brother of Mrs G. H. Walford, Kohat, Camberley, aged 24. – "Faithful unto death. Underneath are the everlasting arms."