



# George William Cantrell Eggleston

## 124 Kedleston Road

George Eggleston, born in May 1899, became eligible for conscription when he was eighteen in May 1917. He was drafted into the Lancashire Fusiliers for training and by March 1918 he was promoted to 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant - he may have still been training at this point or on active service but the records are unclear.

In June 1918 he started training to become a pilot. By this date the Royal Flying Corps and the Royal Naval Air Service had combined to become the Royal Air Force. George qualified for his pilot's wings by training with the Royal Aero Club and from their archives we have traced a photograph and index card.

The club's archive contains records of aviators who were issued with their flying licences (certificates) by the Royal Aero Club from 1910-1950. These include the first military and naval personnel to become pilots.

George received his aviator's certificate on 16 December 1918 a month after the end of the war. His RAF record states that in January 1919 he "ceased to receive instruction" - maybe he was demobilised without using the skills he learnt as a pilot.

George returned to Derby to live with his widowed mother – they had moved from 17 West Avenue, near "Five Lamps" to 124 Kedleston Road sometime during the war.



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They did not live on Kedleston Road for long - in about 1920 his mother Clara moved to 65 Empress Road and several years later George moved away. In the telephone directory for 1957 he is listed as living with his mother in Empress Road .

Glimpses of George's life after the war come from official records – he is noted as a "Textile Manager" in his mother's probate records for 1957. His death certificate in 1982 describes him as a retired Company Director, living in Bournemouth. We have not been able to trace any wife or family.

George is one of three men from this area we know were posted with the RAF – James E. Yeomans of 53 Park Grove and William P. Mills from 33 Statham Street.