

# Harold Winstone Butterworth

## Family history timeline:

Date	Event
4 July 1894	<p>Harold's mother and father (to be) married. It was the second marriage for both of them.</p> <p><u>Father:</u> Benjamin Harold Milliman BUTTERWORTH (1856 ~ 1903)            Previous (first) marriage to Elizabeth Jane (nee HUTSON) m 1880  <u>3 Children</u>  <u>Elizabeth Jane (Lily)</u> (1881 ~ 1931)            Married Edwin Qualthrough Haddock (1876 ~ 1950)  <u>Henry Benjamin</u>, (1886 ~ 1917)            Farmer/Carpenter, Paparata, South Auckland, New Zealand            Service number 30739, Private, NZEF, Auckland Infantry Regiment, 1st Battalion,            Died of wounds, 9 June 1917, Messines, Belgium.            Buried: Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord, France Grave Ref III. C. 143            Next of kin: Mrs L Haddock (sister), Papatoetoe  <u>Charles Herbert</u>, (1888 ~ 1963)            Builder, Thames, New Zealand            Service number 13/302, Private, Auckland Infantry Battalion,            Wounded at Gallipoli, continued to fight in France. Next of kin H.B. Butterworth (brother), Papakura, New Zealand            Married Vera Hibbit Rolton 9 April 1919            Died 27 February 1963, New Zealand</p> <p><u>Mother:</u> Eliza Ann (Annie) BUTTERWORTH (nee WINSTONE, 1859 ~ 1933)            Annie was the only birth child of William and Ellen Winstone. William was a co-founder of Winstone Limited.            Previous (first) marriage to Alfred Acey STEPHENSON m 1880  <u>5 Children</u>  <u>Mabel Ellen</u> (1881 ~ 1946)  <u>William Acey</u> (1882 ~ 1950)  <u>Elsie Winifred</u> (1884 ~ 1948)  <u>Annie Olive</u> (1886 ~ 1976)  <u>Florence (Steve)</u> (1888 ~ 1963)            Subsequent (third) marriage to Thomas King (1855 ~ 1927) m 1925</p>
12 July 1895	Harold was born, Hackett Street, Auckland, New Zealand.
4 May 1900	Brother Albert was born, Mt Albert, Auckland, New Zealand.
23 November 1903	Father (Benjamin) died, Auckland, New Zealand.
	Schooling: Harold attended Mount Albert Public School, and Seddon Memorial Technical College.
1913	Assisted Messer's Sandford and Miller in rebuilding and remodelling the Walsh Brothers biplane <i>Manurewa</i> at Avondale. 18 year old Harold would ride his bicycle out at the end of each work day and help with the project.
1914	At the outbreak of World War 1 Harold was working as a builder. He enlisted in the hope of leaving New Zealand with the first contingent, but was not successful.
28 March 1915	Aged 19 and wanting to 'do his bit' he worked his passage to England as a pantry-man on the Shaw Savill Line Steamship Karamea. Departed Auckland, New Zealand, for England.
1st June 1915	Arrived in Albert docks, England, and stayed initially at the YMCA in Tottenham Court Road, London.

12th June 1915	<p>Went for aeroplane flight at Hendon. From his Diary entry it would appear that this was the first time he had flown.</p> <p>From his Diary "<i>There is no feeling of fear like one seems to expect, but just a feeling of joy and exhilaration. When the engine is started you go shooting over the bumpy ground at about 50 miles per hour then the elevator is raised a little and all bumping and vibration cease, this being the only thing to tell you mother earth is left behind and you are skimming above its surface. Then up goes the elevator a little more and you slide smoothly on a soft cushion of air upwards. After flying a short distance the engine is shut off and you glide quietly back to earth switching the engine on and off several times when about a dozen feet off the ground so as to keep a good pressure under the planes and thereby land more smoothly. It is beautiful going at such a speed through the pure air seeing all nature laid out below and having such a glorious feeling of freedom.</i>"</p>
18 June 1915	<p>Won first prize (silver spoon) at the YMCA weekly shoot-off.</p> <p>From his Diary: "<i>I got first prize making 2 firsts and one second in 3 weeks.</i>"</p>
19 June 1915	Went to Brooklands to start his training in the Royal Flying Corps.
10 July 1915	<p>Flight test carried out at Brooklands airfield. Gained the Royal Aero Club of the United Kingdom Aviator's Certificate. Certificate number 1435.</p> <p>Listed in the Royal Aero Club records as having been a Carpenter and Joiner and having received his aviation training at 'Military School, Brooklands'</p> <p>His Aviator's Certificate shows his date of birth as 12 July 1896. His actual date of birth was 12 July 1895 (Ref: New Zealand Births Deaths Marriages).</p>
10 July 1915	Appointed 2nd Lieutenant.
11 August 1915	Posted to 4th Wing Netheravon for 'higher instruction' in aviation.
6 October 1915	Qualified for his RFC Wings.
21 October 1915	<p>Appointed Flying Officer.</p> <p>Instructed at Netheravon for a period before being posted to France at the beginning of 1916.</p>
27 January 1916	<p>Last entry in his Diary.</p> <p>Diary entry "<i>I have bought a motor bike now and find it very handy in my work, going out to breakdowns etc. I have been doing a little flying today but things are about the same as usual.</i>"</p>
Early 1916	Posted to France - 18 Squadron Royal Flying Corps.
12 July 1916	21st birthday.
16 July 1916	<p>Killed in action, France.</p> <p>He had just returned from leave in England a few days before his death. This had been his first holiday from active service in France. Whilst at Farnborough preparing for his return to France, he, along with fellow New Zealander, Lieutenant John (known as Jack) Seabrook, met with the King George V and Queen Mary. (Ref <i>Manawatu Times</i> 9 Sept 1916 Pg 4; <i>The Airman</i>, 1April1941; <i>Daily Mirror</i> 6 July 1916).</p> <p>After the war Jack Seabrook formed a partnership with Bill Fowlds to become Seabrook Fowlds Ltd, the New Zealand agents for Austin cars.</p>

	<p><b>Final Flight:</b>  On the night of 15/16 June 1916 took off at 00:30 hours in a Royal Aircraft Factory FE2b Number 5233 on a bombing raid over Sallaumines, France. Shot down about an hour later by German infantry fire and crashed almost intact in the German front line with the aircraft's tail on the trench parapet.  The observer, Captain John H F McEwen was taken prisoner by the Germans. Lieutenant Butterworth died from gun fire wounds. (Ref: <i>For Your Tomorrow, Volume One: Fates 1915-1942, Errol W Martin.</i>)  The British gave orders to shell the machine to prevent the Germans obtaining parts.</p> <p>Harold was initially reported missing, taken prisoner, but a message dropped by the Germans to the British stated that he had died. He was buried by the Germans on the 17 July 1916 in the Carvin Communal Cemetery German Extension, but later reinterred to the Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery at Souchez.</p> <p>His observer, Captain McEwen (later Sir John McEwen of Marchmont and Bardrochat, 1st Baronet) went on after the war to become a Scottish Member of Parliament.</p>
1 August 1916	Promoted to Lieutenant (posthumously). This promotion is listed in his military records and in <i>Flight</i> magazine dated August 31, 1916.
9 June 1917	Half brother Henry Benjamin Butterworth died of wounds, Messines, Belgium.
21 January 1920	Brother Albert married Rosina Marianne (Dot) Cottingham.
24 February 1925	Harold's mother remarried to Thomas KING.
6 May 1933	Brother Albert died, Auckland, New Zealand.

**Notes:**

Harold had 1 brother and 7 half brothers and sisters.

Period of service: Gratuity to Officers record (WO339-70427-046) shows that Harold received full pay from 10 July 1915 to 31 July 1916. (From date of gaining Royal Aero Club of the United Kingdom Aviator's Certificate until the end of the month of his death).

Active service: 6 months in France with 18 Squadron Royal Flying Corps.  
Roles: In charge of the C Flight Workshop.  
Bomb dropping by night and observation flights.

Buried at: CABARET-ROUGE BRITISH CEMETERY, SOUCHEZ  
Grave reference: XV. J. 25.

**Home addresses:**

National Archives, WO\_339\_70427\_031, Causality return

Mrs E Butterworth, Allendale Road, Mt Albert, Auckland, New Zealand

National Archives, WO\_339\_70427\_035, Effects Form

Mrs E A Butterworth, Failand, Belmont Avenue, Mt Albert, Auckland, New Zealand (Now Stilwell Road (name changed in 1938)).

Harold's grandfather William Winstone built a house in Symond Street, Auckland, called 'Failand', and later shifted it to Belmont Avenue, Mt Albert, the house becoming known as 'Belmont'. It is on the corner of Summit and Stilwell Roads, Mt Albert. William then built 'Tyntesfield' in Allendale Road, Mt Albert. 'Belmont' is said to have become the home of William's newly married daughter Annie at the time of her first marriage to William Acey Stephenson. This is the home address given in Harold's War Office records.